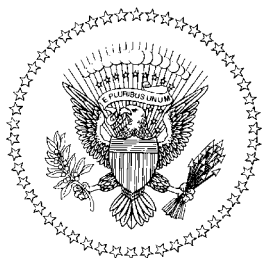


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, August 28, 2000  
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**Editor's Note:** The President was en route to Abuja, Nigeria, on August 25, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, August 25, 2000

**Statement on Signing Legislation  
Designating Wilson Creek in North  
Carolina as a Part of the National  
Wild and Scenic Rivers System**

*August 18, 2000*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1749, an Act "To designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

Wilson Creek possesses all the remarkable values that distinguish the free-flowing rivers of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: exceptional scenery; recreational opportunities; fish, wildlife, and botanical communities; and historic and cultural sites. The designation will protect and conserve Wilson Creek and provide continued opportunities for fishing, white-water boating, swimming, and hiking.

I applaud the efforts of the North Carolina congressional delegation along with the County Commissioners and residents of Avery and Caldwell Counties who have worked to preserve and protect this remarkable resource. Their individual and collective efforts have preserved for the people of the State of North Carolina and all Americans a natural treasure that, together with the other rivers of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, will continue to add immeasurably to the quality of our environment and our national life.

Designation of Wilson Creek as a wild, scenic, and recreational river will finalize a nearly 20-year conservation initiative and will guarantee for future generations that the river and its values are conserved. I am pleased to sign this legislation, which will permanently protect Wilson Creek as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

NOTE: H.R. 1749, approved August 18, was assigned Public Law No. 106-261. This item was

not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks at the Franklin, Essex, and  
Clinton County Democratic Picnic in  
Saranac Lake, New York**

*August 18, 2000*

Thank you. Well, let me thank all of you for coming out tonight. I thank the mayor and all of our chairs. And Phil Lalande and Anne Tubby, thank you for being with us tonight.

I think Hillary just about said it all, don't you? I thought that was great.

I want to say a few things and then ask you something from a little different perspective. First of all, I want to thank all the people of New York State for voting twice in 1992 and 1996 for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, and I'm very grateful to you. And I want to say a special word of thanks to you for 1996, when we carried 52 of the State's counties, including Franklin, Essex, and Clinton Counties, by big margins, and I thank you. Now that we know you can do it, I hope you'll do the same thing for Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman this year.

I was thinking, when Chelsea and I were sitting there listening to Hillary talk, two things. First of all, I thought she was giving a great talk. [*Laughter*] And I thought she gave a great speech at the convention Monday night. And I want to echo what she said about the Vice President's speech last night. It was an extraordinary speech and a great roadmap for the country's future, and I'm grateful for that.

But I want to talk to you from a unique perspective, because my family has a new candidate and my party, as of last night, has a new leader. And so in this election, though I will be President and I have a lot I'm going to try to get done for you in the next 5 months, I am moving back to where I spent

the first 20 years of my active life in politics, from the time I was 8 years old and my uncle was running for the State legislature at home, and I was passing out cards for him at the polling place. That is, I'm coming back to where you are. I'm going to be a citizen activist, and I'm going to try to be a good one. But I've had a unique opportunity to see what makes a country change and grow, and also to understand clearly the consequences of elections and the decisions made by the people whom we elect.

So I can't begin to add anything to what I said last Monday about what happened the last 8 years, what Hillary and Al Gore said about what ought to happen in the next 4 years. But I can tell you this: What the election rides on is whether the people of this country, the people of this State, and the people of this part of New York believe it's a big election, not a little election, and understand that there are differences and know what the differences are.

So as somebody who's sort of coming back your way, to citizen activism, I thank you for coming here tonight; I thank you for your support for all your local candidates. And Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here, and all the other local officials, I thank you for your support for Hillary. It means so much to me, and it will be good for New York.

But I want to ask you to leave here remembering what I said. I tried to make the argument last Monday night that for all the progress we have made in the last 8 years, the best stuff is still out there, because that's what I believe. That's what I believe.

If you just think about it, we had to work so hard to turn the economy around and get rid of the deficit. Now we can bring prosperity to the people and places left behind. We had to work so hard to get the crime rate going down instead of going up. Now we can focus on making America the safest big country in the world. We had to work so hard in getting in place the things that work in education. Now we can focus on making sure every child in this country can get a world-class education from kindergarten through college.

We are in a position to take advantage of all these scientific discoveries and all these technological developments in a way that has

never been possible in this country and, as Hillary said, could bring great economic opportunity to upstate New York. But the people have to choose wisely.

And I can just tell you, as somebody who spent the first 20 years of my life working to try to persuade other people to vote for folks I thought ought to be elected; and then who spent 22 of the last 24 years as a public official trying to convince people I ought to be elected and reelected and what I was doing made sense; as someone who's looking forward to an election where I can support a man I believe in for President, a man I believe in for Vice President, and a woman I think would be one of the great United States Senators of our time for the Senate, I can tell you, not everybody thinks about this as much as you do.

Isn't that right? Whether they're Democrats, independents, or Republicans, not everybody sits around and thinks about this as much as you do. This is a massive crowd tonight. But there are more people from this area who aren't here than people who are, right? By definition. That's not a criticism. This is a huge crowd. It blew me away when I walked in here. But the point I'm trying to make is that between now and election day, each one of you will have a chance every day to say, "Look, this is a big deal here. You've got to take this seriously." The people you work with, the people you're in civic clubs with, the people you worship with, the people you run into on the street or drink coffee with, you can say, "Look, this is a big election. You remember where this country was 8 years ago?"

And those of you who are over 30 can make this point to younger people. You know, you get a time like this in a country's life maybe once in a lifetime, where you get the chance to build a future of your dreams for your kids. So once you convince people it's a big election and they have to take it seriously, you're halfway home in terms of persuading them to vote for our people.

And then the second thing you have to convince them of is that there are significant differences that will affect their lives, their children's lives, and the future of New York and the United States.

So as someone who is profoundly grateful to all of you—there's hardly a place in America that's been more generous to me more consistently than New York has—I want you to know that the best thing I can give back to you is to do my dead-level best to get everything I can do done for America in the 5 months I've got left to be President and to persuade the American people that a chance like this comes along once in a lifetime.

I've worked hard to turn the country around, but all the best stuff is still out there. But the American people have to believe it's a big election, and there are big consequences because there are big differences. If you can take some time every day between now and November to talk to your friends, without regard to their parties, in a calm and open way—[laughter]—making those two points—making those two points, say, “Hey, we're not mad at these other guys. We don't have anything bad to say about them. But look, it's a big election, and there are big differences, and here's what the differences are, and they'll have consequences for your lives and your children and your future.”

If you will take some time to do that, then we'll have a great night on November 7th, because Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Hillary will be elected, and America will be better off.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:17 p.m. at the Saranac Lake Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Thomas Catillaz of Saranac Lake; Philip Lalande, patron, Saranac Lake Civic Center; and Anne Tubby, longtime resident of Saranac Lake. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

## The President's Radio Address

August 19, 2000

Good morning. During the recent political convention, we asked people all across our country to take stock of our Nation's progress and the challenges that lie ahead. One thing is clear: We live in a moment of unprecedented peace and prosperity, and getting there was not a matter of chance but of choice.

When the Vice President and I set out to restore the American dream 8 years ago, we faced some tough choices. But with the support of the American people, we made those choices together. Today I want to talk about how far we've come and how we can use this historic good time to address our outstanding challenges at home and abroad.

We now enjoy the longest economic expansion in our history, turning record deficits into record surpluses, creating more than 22 million jobs with the lowest unemployment in 30 years, and average family income has jumped by more than \$5,000.

But more than just being better off, America is a better nation. We ended welfare as we knew it. With the benefits of job training, child care, and transportation, 7½ million Americans have moved from welfare to work. We're turning our schools around with higher standards, more accountability, more investment. As a result, our reading, math, and SAT scores are going up, and more students than ever are going to college. We made our communities safer by putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets, banning assault weapons, keeping guns away from a half million felons, fugitives, and stalkers, and together, we brought crime to a 25-year low.

We've also extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by 26 years and passed the Family and Medical Leave Act, which over 20 million Americans have used to take a little time off for a newborn baby or a sick loved one. Our air and water are cleaner; our food is safer.

We've also stepped up our fight against AIDS, doubling AIDS research and prevention efforts. We're working on the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act to provide a lifeline to half-million Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

While we're making real progress in the fight against AIDS here at home, we have to do more to combat this plague around the world. That's why today I'm pleased to sign the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act. This bipartisan legislation authorizes funding for AIDS treatment and prevention programs worldwide and increases investment in vaccines for the world's children, including AIDS vaccine research. I hope Congress will also approve our vaccine tax credit

to speed development of such critical vaccines for the developing world.

Fighting AIDS worldwide is not just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing. In our tightly connected world, infectious disease anywhere is a threat to public health everywhere. AIDS threatens the economies of the poorest countries, the stability of friendly nations, the future of fragile democracies. Already, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and increasingly threatens Asia and the states of the former Soviet Union. In the hardest hit countries, AIDS is leaving students without teachers, patients without doctors, and children without parents. Today alone, African families will hold nearly 6,000 funerals for loved ones who died of AIDS.

But we still have time to do a world of good if we act now. This bill is an important step in the fight against AIDS. It's also a symbol of the good we can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan spirit. In that same spirit, Congress still has time to get important work done for the American people this fall. When they return in a few weeks, they'll still have time to put progress before partisanship to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights; affordable Medicare prescription drug benefits for all our seniors; to set aside the Medicare surplus so that it can only be spent to strengthen Medicare, not raided for tax cuts we can't afford; to pass tax cuts that help middle class families send their kids to college and provide long-term care for their loved ones.

We should also pass a strong hate crimes bill and commonsense gun legislation. We should rebuild our crumbling schools, hire the rest of those 100,000 teachers, and raise the minimum wage.

These are big challenges, but if we make the tough choices together, we'll keep our progress and prosperity going.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:57 p.m. on August 18 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

## **Statement on Signing the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000**

*August 19, 2000*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3519, the "Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000," which represents the latest U.S. effort in the long-term global fight against HIV/AIDS and its related threat of tuberculosis.

In July 1999, Vice President Gore and I launched the Administration's interagency "Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic" (LIFE) initiative to expand our funding for global HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in the worst affected developing countries. With bipartisan support, the Congress appropriated the additional \$100 million that we requested for FY 2000 to enhance these efforts. For FY 2001, my budget includes an additional \$100 million for the LIFE initiative.

While the LIFE initiative greatly strengthens the foundation of a comprehensive response to the pandemic, the United States clearly understands that there is much more to be done. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS has estimated that it will take \$1.5 billion annually to establish an effective HIV prevention program in sub-Saharan Africa and an additional \$1.5 billion annually to deliver basic care and treatment to people with AIDS in the region.

H.R. 3519 takes some of the additional steps to broaden the global effort to combat this worldwide epidemic. It provides enhanced bilateral authorities and authorizes funding for the Agency for International Development's HIV/AIDS programs; authorizes new funding for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative; and authorizes the creation of a World Bank AIDS Trust Fund that is intended to create a new, multi-lateral funding mechanism to support AIDS prevention and care programs in the most grievously affected countries.

The United States, however, cannot and should not battle AIDS alone. This crisis will require the active engagement of all segments of all societies working together. Every bilateral donor, every multilateral lending

agency, the corporate community, the foundation community, the religious community, and every host government of a developing nation must do its part to provide the leadership and resources necessary to turn this tide. It can and must be done.

There is currently no vaccine or cure for HIV/AIDS, and we are at the beginning of a global pandemic, not the end. What we see in Africa today is just the tip of the iceberg. There must be a sense of urgency to work together with our partners in Africa and around the world, to learn from both our failures and our successes, and to share this experience with those countries that now stand on the brink of disaster. Millions of lives—perhaps hundreds of millions—hang in the balance. That is why this legislation is so important.

I wish to thank and congratulate our congressional partners who worked hard to make this bipartisan legislation a reality: Representatives Leach, Lee, LaFalce, Gejdenson, Gilman, Jackson-Lee, Maloney of New York, and Pelosi, and Senators Kerry, Frist, Biden, Boxer, Durbin, Feingold, Helms, Leahy, Moynihan, and Smith of Oregon.

While I strongly support this legislation, certain provisions seem to direct the Administration on how to proceed in negotiations related to the development of the World Bank AIDS Trust Fund. Because these provisions appear to require the Administration to take certain positions in the international arena, they raise constitutional concerns. As such, I will treat them as precatory.

The United States has been engaged in the fight against AIDS since the 1980s. Increasingly, we have come to realize that when it comes to AIDS, neither the crisis nor the opportunity to address it have borders. We have a great deal to learn from the experiences of other countries, and the suffering of citizens in our global village touches us all. The pages of history reveal moments in time when the global community came together and collectively found “the higher angels of our nature.” In a world living with AIDS, we must reach for one of those his-

toric moments now—it is the only way to avoid paying the price later.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
August 19, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 3519, approved August 19, was assigned Public Law No. 106–264.

### **Statement on School Overcrowding**

*August 21, 2000*

This year a record 53 million children will enroll in American schools, according to a new report released today by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. Over the last 10 years, our public schools have grown by 6.6 million students, resulting in overcrowded classrooms and strained school facilities. To meet the needs of America’s growing student population, we need to build new schools and modernize existing ones.

For too long, the Republican leadership in Congress has failed to act on tax breaks proposed by my administration to build and modernize 6,000 schools. They have also failed to pass my proposal to fund urgent repairs such as leaky roofs, faulty fire alarms, and inadequate furnaces at 25,000 schools across the country. I remain strongly committed to working with Members of both parties to help create safe and modern places for America’s students to learn. Our children deserve no less.

### **Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibility Under the Open-market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications (ORBIT) Act**

*August 21, 2000*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject: Delegation of Responsibility Under the Open-market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications (ORBIT) Act*

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States

of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions vested in me by section 646 of the ORBIT Act (Public Law 106-180), relating to submission of annual reports to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the privatization of intergovernmental satellite organizations. The authority delegated by the memorandum may be further redelegated within the Department of State.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2000]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29.

### **Statement on Welfare Reform**

*August 22, 2000*

On August 22, 1996, I signed landmark bipartisan welfare reform legislation, transforming our Nation's welfare system into one that requires work for time-limited assistance. Four years later we see strong evidence that this historic change is working: welfare caseloads have been cut in half; a record proportion of people on welfare are working; and the businesses in the Welfare to Work Partnership alone have hired more than one million people off welfare.

New data released today show that welfare rolls are just half of what they were 4 years ago, and the percentage of Americans on welfare is at the lowest level in 35 years. My administration will send a report to Congress today that shows all States have met the welfare reform law's overall work requirements in 1999. Moreover, individuals remaining on welfare are nearly 5 times more likely to be working than they were in 1992.

I am pleased that since its launch at the White House in May 1997, the Welfare to Work Partnership has enlisted more than 20,000 businesses who have hired an estimated 1.1 million former welfare recipients. As many of these companies have learned, welfare recipients are productive workers who want a hand up, not a handout. With

Vice President Gore's leadership, the Federal Government has also done its part, hiring nearly 50,000 former welfare recipients at a time when the Federal Government is the smallest it has been in 40 years.

In 4 short years, we have seen a new emphasis on work and responsibility, as welfare recipients themselves have risen to the challenge and made welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life. As we celebrate how far we've come, we must not forget that there is still more to do. Working together, we must build on our progress and help even more families become self-sufficient. That is why I am challenging the Welfare to Work Partnership to link even more welfare recipients, community-based organizations, and employers in communities around the Nation—helping more businesses find qualified workers and more welfare recipients and other new workers succeed in our booming economy. I urge State and local officials to use the resources and flexibility provided through welfare reform to invest in supports for both current recipients and low income working families. And I call on Congress to join me in promoting work and responsibility by enacting my budget proposals to make work pay, encourage savings, promote responsible fatherhood, and expand access to child care, housing, transportation, and health care.

### **Remarks at a Reception for Representative Debbie Stabenow in Bingham Farms, Michigan**

*August 22, 2000*

Thank you very, very much. I want to begin by saying thank you to Brian and Jennifer for opening their home. This is such a beautiful place. And the backyard is wonderful, and the weather has cooperated. It's an omen, Debbie.

I want to thank Senator Carl Levin for being here. I wish I could tell you all the times over the last 8 years that I have seen Carl Levin time and time again stand up on the floor of the Senate and do the right thing, not only for Michigan but for the people of the United States. He is a magnificent

United States Senator, and he deserves a good fight—[*inaudible*].

I don't know if John Conyers is here. I heard he was coming. Hello, John, it's nice to see you. Let me say that one of the corollary benefits of electing five more, six more Democrats to the House of Representatives is that John Conyers will be the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and it will be a credit to the United States. And I thank you.

Millie, I'm glad to see you. You look good in that Medal of Freedom. [*Laughter*] And you earned it. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Doreen and David Hermelin for 9 years of friendship and support, for doing such a magnificent job in Norway, and David has made me laugh from Michigan to Washington to Oslo. And I suspect I'm not the only person in this crowd besides your family that feels deeply indebted to you for being a magnificent human being. And I thank you so much.

Now, this is an unusual election for me. It's the first time in 26 years they've had one that I'm not running for something. [*Laughter*] Most days I'm okay about it. [*Laughter*] My family has a new candidate, making Debbie my second favorite Senate candidate who is a woman running in America today. [*Laughter*] And I thank the Hermelins for helping her, as well.

My party has a new leader, and I thought he did a magnificent job last Thursday night. And Michigan is very, very important to what happens this year. It is not an accident that early Tuesday morning Hillary and I got up in Los Angeles and flew across the country to drive to Monroe, Michigan, for the symbolic handoff with the Vice President and Tipper Gore. It is profoundly important. It's also important because of this Senate race.

I admire Debbie Stabenow. I admire her for the work she's done in the Congress. I admire her for standing up for what she believes. I admire her for leaving the confines of a safe House seat and the prospect of being in the majority in the House of Representatives to take a step of challenging an incumbent Senator. I want her to win, and she can win, and she should win if all of you will do what you can to help her between now and November.

Now, as I said the other night in Los Angeles, this is a big election. And every Senate seat, every House seat is important, and obviously the White House is a profoundly important thing. But the only thing I'm worried about in this election is that we might get all the way to November, and people might not understand because things are going so well that it is a big election with big choices and big differences.

I am absolutely convinced if the people of Michigan understand what the choices are and what the consequences to them and their families are, that Debbie will be elected and that Al Gore and Joe Lieberman will be elected. That's what I believe. I believe that, and so I thank you for your contributions; I thank you for coming here. But I just want to take 2 minutes to say what I tried to hammer home last night and to make a couple of other points—or last week.

Number one, we started 8 years ago with a simple vision that America in the 21st century ought to be a place where opportunity is alive for every responsible citizen, where without regard to our backgrounds and our differences, we are coming together, not being driven apart, and where we're still the world's leading force for peace and freedom.

Now, we had a strategy: prepare people for this new era by creating the conditions and giving the people the tools to make the most of their own lives and giving everybody a chance. Get the roadblocks out of the way and give people a hand up who needed it. We just got fresh evidence today that that's working. Today we got the 4-year results on our welfare reform efforts. Welfare rolls now are at a 35-year low in the United States of America, something you can all be proud of.

But I want to reiterate something else I said. I believe all the best things—for all the good things that have happened in America the last 8 years, even greater achievements are out there if, but only if, we focus on the big challenges and make the right choices. And there's some big challenges out there. If we have the longest economic expansion in history, how are we going to keep the prosperity going and extend its benefits to people in places left behind? How are we going to get America out of debt for the first time since 1835? How are we going to meet the

challenge of the aging of America? When the baby boomers like me are all over 65, there will only be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security.

How are we going to meet the challenge of the children of America, the largest and most diverse group of children we have ever had? Will they all get a world-class education, or not? How are we going to meet the challenge of balancing work and family in a world where most parents have to work?

How are we going to meet the challenge of staying ahead in science and technology and protecting our values? When all your medical and financial records are on the Internet, when all of us have a little gene card that says everything that's wrong with us, how are we going to protect our privacy and keep people from depriving others of health insurance or a job?

How are we going to meet the challenge of global warming and still keep the economy going? How are we going to deal with even greater racial, religious, ethnic, and other diversities? And what will it take for us to continue to lead the world toward the kind of peace I've worked so hard for, from the Middle East to Northern Ireland to the Balkans? What will it take?

Now, don't let anybody tell you there are no big issues in this election. This is big stuff. And how a country deals with its prosperity, its good times, is just as stern a test of its judgment, its values, its character as how you deal with adversity. After all, when I came to Michigan in 1992, and asked the people to vote for me, it didn't take a stroke of genius to understand that we had to do something different. As Al Gore used to say, "Everything that should be up was down. Everything that should be down was up." We couldn't keep doing the same things.

Now we have to think about how to meet these challenges. And I just want to mention two or three things that I think are profoundly important. I could talk about a dozen, but I'll just mention three.

First, on health care: This United States Senator would vote for, not against, the Patients' Bill of Rights, would vote for a Medicare drug program that all of our seniors who need it could have access to. That is important.

The second thing I want to talk about a little bit is the economy, and that relates to the attack that's been leveled against her by her opponent. I saw the other day—I was reading the papers, getting ready to come here, that her opponent says, "Well, you know, she'll go vote for that big drug program, she and Carl Levin. There's just going to be like a \$600 million tax or a billion dollar tax. It's just going to be terrible." I heard all that. It's like, we're going to spend too much money.

Now, I want you to listen to this because this is the most important distinction that will affect everybody that I think is not well understood. What are we going to do with our surplus, and how is it going to affect the economy? Here's our position. Our position is we have a large projected surplus; we should, however, not spend it all today, first, because it hasn't come in; it's a projected surplus. So what should we do with it? Here's what we say. We say we want to give the American people a tax cut we can afford, that includes marriage penalty relief, college tuition deduction, help for child care, for long-term care for an elderly or disabled relative, for saving for retirement.

We think we have to save some money back to invest in education and in health care, including this Medicare prescription drug program. We think we have to save some money back so that we can lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare, to get it out beyond the life expectancy of the baby boom generation, so that when we retire we don't bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandchildren. And if we do it that way, we can get this country out of debt over the next 10 or 12 years, for the first time since 1835, a year before Arkansas and Michigan became States.

Now, that's our position. Their position sounds better the first time you hear it, and it doesn't take as long to say it. Their position is, "Hey, we've got this big projected surplus. It's your money. Vote for us. We're going to give it all back to you." Sounds great. Doesn't take as long to say. Here's the problem.

It is literally true that their combined tax cut promises spend all the projected surplus

and then some, leaving nothing for education, health care, the environment, nothing for emergencies, nothing for their own spending promises, their Star Wars promise, their promise to partially privatize Social Security, which alone would cost a trillion dollars. And most important of all, the money is not there yet.

Now look, this is a big deal. The Council of Economic Advisers has estimated that even if all this money comes in, the plan that Debbie and Carl would vote for would keep interest rates one percent lower every year for a decade than their plan, if all the money comes in. In other words, best case. You know what that's worth to you? Two hundred fifty billion dollars in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. In other words, another \$300 billion tax cut.

Our plan costs way less than half of what theirs does and gives more money to two-thirds of the American people. Now, nearly everybody in this room would be better off under their plan the first year, because it helps people who can afford to go to fundraisers like this. *[Laughter]* And I hope I'll be one of them next year. *[Laughter]* But what's the problem? Every one of you will be worse off as soon as those interest rates started going up and the stock market started going down and the economy started getting weaker.

This is a huge deal, not widely understood. You have to find a way to tell your friends and neighbors: We have worked too hard to get this country out of the ditch; we have worked too hard to get rid of this deficit; we can't show up next year and say, "Here's our projected surplus. Let's give it all away in a tax cut." And the drug program that she supports can easily be funded to help every senior citizen who needs it in this country and still have a tax cut, and still get us out of debt.

And if all the money doesn't come in, we've got a cushion built into ours. Now, you've got to hammer this home. Think how hard we've worked together as a country to turn it around economically, to get interest rates down, to make investments pay off, to generate jobs and create hope and opportunity. And in some blinding flash should we

just throw it away by giving away all of our projected income?

I say all the time it really reminds me of these letters I used to get, back when I was a civilian, in the mail from the Publishers Clearing House, those sweepstakes letters signed by Ed McMahon: "You may have won \$10 million." That's what your projected income is: "You may have won \$10 million." Well, if you spent the money the next day, you probably shouldn't vote for her. *[Laughter]* But if you didn't, you should vote for Debbie Stabenow; you should vote for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and support Carl Levin and keep this prosperity going. This is a profoundly important issue.

The last thing I want to say is this: A United States Senator has to cast important votes that are more important than economics, that go to the heart of who we are as a people and how we live and whether we're going to be one America, whether we're going to respect everybody's privacy and everybody's rights and everybody's diversity—the hate crimes legislation, the employment nondiscrimination legislation, and maybe most important of all, ratifying or failing to approve Justices appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

Now, the next President of the United States will have between two and four appointments to the Supreme Court. I had two in my first term, and I'm proud of the job they're doing. And I never asked them to reflect every view I had, but I do think it is important that we have a President who will appoint Justices that will stick up for basic civil rights, including the right to choose, and Senators who will vote to ratify such judges.

And if this is an important issue to friends and neighbors of yours and people you know, you cannot let them pretend that the vote in the Senate race or the vote in the President's race is not going to have an impact on this.

So I will say again, if you believe in the Patients' Bill of Rights and the Medicare drug benefits that all seniors can afford, you've got to vote for Debbie and Al and Joe. If you believe that we should get this country out of debt and keep the prosperity going and save some money to invest in education and health care and have a tax cut

we can afford, you've got to vote for Debbie and Al and Joe. If you believe in a woman's right to choose and if you believe in the hate crimes legislation and building one America that we can all be a part of, you've got to vote for Debbie and for Al and Joe.

That is clear. And you have to do what you can. This is the most important thing of all. I know I am, if I might use an expression out of my faith, I know I am preaching to the saved today. But what I'm trying to say to you is, it is not good enough even for you to come here to this fundraiser. Every one of you, every one of you, has friends who may not even be Democrats, but they certainly aren't as interested in politics as you are. They never come to fundraisers like this. They don't think about this stuff all the time. But they're good citizens, and they will show up and vote. And they have to understand it's a big election with big choices, with big differences that have huge consequences to the lives our children will have.

So I implore you, if you believe in what you did in coming here today, go out there and tell people if they want to keep the prosperity going and extend it, if they want to get this country out of debt, if they want to see all our seniors have the medicine they need as more and more of us grow older, if they want to preserve a right to choose for a woman and the right to build one America without regard to all the differences that make this a great and interesting country, there is only one choice in this election: Debbie Stabenow, Al Gore, and Joe Lieberman.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:55 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Brian Hermelin, president, Active Aero, Inc., and his wife, Jennifer; Mr. Hermelin's father, David B. Hermelin, former U.S. Ambassador to Norway, and his wife, Doreen; and political activist Mildred (Millie) Jeffrey, to whom the President awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on August 9. Representative Stabenow is a candidate for U.S. Senate from Michigan.

### **Remarks at a Dinner for Representative Debbie Stabenow in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**

*August 22, 2000*

Thank you. Well, first I'd like to thank Bill and Michelle for letting us come into their home while it's still new. *[Laughter]* It might have been built for this event, who knows? *[Laughter]* It's a really beautiful place, and they're really good people. They've been so good to me and Hillary and the Vice President and Tipper. And thank you for helping Debbie, and thanks for being my friend all these long years. I'm very grateful to you.

I want to thank all your officeholders who are here—Jennifer Granholm, whose husband was giving me some tips on how to be the spouse of a candidate. *[Laughter]* And I listened very carefully. I don't want to blow this. *[Laughter]* I thank Dale Kildee for being my friend and for working with us for 8 years for the interests of the families of Michigan and the United States. It's been really great.

And I can't say enough about Carl Levin. He and Barbara rode over here with us, and we were talking about the last 8 years, and I was thinking about all the things that he has educated me on. But I can tell you that he is one of the handful of people that is universally respected in the Senate by everybody, and when he talks, everybody listens.

I want to thank all of you who worked on this event. I see Peter Bittenweiser back there. Thank you, sir, and all the rest of you who helped to make this successful. And I'd like to say my special word of appreciation to Jane Hart for being here tonight. You know, when I was a young man in college, I worked for Senator Bill Fulbright, who was then the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and it was a very long time ago. But I remember vividly when I was there, one of the most tumultuous times in modern American history. We had big struggles over civil rights, big struggles over riots in the streets, big struggles over Vietnam. And I remember very vividly how Senator Phil Hart

conducted himself, how he spoke, what he said, and how other people respected him.

And one of the reasons that Debbie Stabenow ought to go to the Senate, apart from the fact that she will vote more like Phil Hart would have voted and speak more like he would have spoken, is that we in the Democratic Party have tried our best to work in good faith with the Republicans, and we have tried to end the politics of personal hostility and negativism. And I think almost as important as anything else, Debbie will restore, along with Hillary and President Gore and Vice President Lieberman, a sense of real humanity to our national political life. The American people will say one more time, "We don't like that stuff. We sent you up there to do a job. We want you to treat each other with respect, and we want you to show up for work every day." That is the legacy of Phil Hart that I remember and one I will always remember. And I'm very honored that you're here tonight, Jane, and I thank you very much.

I'd also like to say at the last meeting—I don't even know if he's here tonight but—if he came over here—but I saw Matt Frumin, who was one of the original cochairmen of my Saxophone Club who is now running for Congress in the 11th district. *[Laughter]* And he's really doing a good job, and I hope you'll help him as well.

Now, if you heard what I said in Los Angeles, I don't know that I have much more to say about—*[laughter]*—about what I think this election is all about. But I will try to be briefer and more colloquial. First of all, I am profoundly grateful to the people of Michigan for voting for me twice, by big margins, the last time by almost twice the margin by which we prevailed in the country. The people of this State have been good to me and have come to reflect the diversity and the success that has been the hallmark of America in these last 8 years. And I'm very, very grateful.

Secondly, this is the first time in 26 years they've held an election when I wasn't on the ballot. *[Laughter]* I used to have to run every 2 years. And as I've often joked, most days I'm okay about it, because I feel—my heart is full of gratitude, and I'm really rather looking forward to trying to figure out what

to do in the next chapter of my life and how to be a good citizen. I have 5 months, and I intend to do a great deal in these last 5 months as President. But I speak today also as someone who for most of his political life was a citizen activist.

I was 8 years old handing out cards for my uncle who was running for the legislature. I spent 20 years working for other people before I spent 24 years scurrying around on my own behalf and also working for other people. And what I would like to say to you is, I have now lived long enough to know that sometimes you're most in trouble in political life when you think you're least in trouble. You're most vulnerable as a people when we think we're least vulnerable. And the big danger when things are going well is that you think you can go to sleep.

There are a lot of young people here. Bill and Michelle and their wonderful kids are here. A lot of the rest of you brought your kids here. And they, most of them, don't know this, but anybody who is over 30 years old has lived long enough to have made at least one whopper of a mistake in your life, not when times are going real poorly but when times were going so well you thought there was simply no consequence to the failure to concentrate. If you live long enough, you'll make one of those mistakes.

And so what I want to say is, if the people of Michigan understand the difference in Debbie's voting record and her opponent, if they understand the difference in her positions on the issues that are hanging fire today and her opponent's, if they understand the general difference in her approach to how America should go into the 21st century and her opponent's, she will win the election. I don't think any of you doubt that.

So wouldn't it be ironic if the big adversary of Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the new candidate in my family, Hillary—and some of you have already helped, and for that I am very grateful—and Debbie was the very success that all of us have worked so hard to help the American people create. Now, that is what I want you to think about.

And I don't want you to just think about it tonight; I want you to think about it every day between now and the election. Because, as much as I appreciate the money you have

contributed to her campaign and as much as I hope you'll keep trying to help her and all the rest of our crowd's races, it's not enough, because America has to be thinking about this election in order for us to prevail. We can't sleepwalk through it. We can't sort of sidle into it. We've got to actually think, "Oh, my goodness, there's an election, the only time in my lifetime we've had this much prosperity with the absence of domestic crisis and foreign threat. We have the chance to build the future of our dreams for our kids. What is this about?"

And every one of you know lots and lots of people who are far less involved in politics than you are, people who are your relatives, people who are your friends, people with whom you work, people with whom you worship, people with whom you play golf or bowl or whatever you do. You know a lot of people that you really like and care about who aren't nearly as into this as you are. But they're good people, and they're good citizens, and they're going to show up on election day. They're going to vote, sure as the world. If they have to walk through the ice, they'll go vote. Don't you want them to know what this is about, and don't you want them to have at least the same framework you do?

This is the whole shooting match, folks. We have the chance to build the future of our dreams for our children. It's a big election. We will never forgive ourselves if we sleepwalk through it. It may not come around again in your lifetime.

If you heard my convention speech you heard me talking about the late sixties. That's the last time we had an economic run this long. And I'm telling you, I finished high school in the middle of it, and if anybody had told me that within 2 years we'd have riots in the streets and within 4 years Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy would be dead and the President that I admired so much, Lyndon Johnson, wouldn't run for reelection and the country would be split in two and then we'd have a divisive Presidential election, and then the economic expansion would be over, I would never have believed it. I would never have believed it.

Now, we're more fortunate this time. We don't have that level of internal crisis or external threat right now, but we have to con-

centrate. And you've got to go out and tell everybody you know that this is an important election with the opportunity of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams.

Then you've got to tell people, "Hey, there are real differences here that are big and have practical consequences for the lives of the families in Michigan—huge difference in economic policy." Do you really believe that right now we should say, "We've got a \$2 trillion projected surplus, and we ought to give it all away in a tax cut right now?" Right now, give it all away for the next 10 years, before the money comes in, before we see about the emergencies, before we set aside anything for education or health care or do anything to lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare or give up trying to get the country out of debt to keep interest rates down, the stock market high, and growth going and jobs coming in?

This is huge. I promise you most people don't know yet what the difference is in the economic policies of Debbie Stabenow and her opponent, and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and their adversaries. They don't know. You can tell them. It's a huge deal.

I got a report last month that said that interest rates—best case for the Republican plan—that is, if all this money actually comes in, interest rates would be a point lower every year for a decade under our plan. That's worth for most folks, totaled, \$250 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, and for those of you with kids in college, \$15 billion in lower student loan payments. This is a huge deal.

And never mind what happens if the money doesn't come in. We don't have to spend it if it doesn't come in, but I promise you, if they have a tax cut next year and give it all away, they're not going to turn around and raise taxes if it doesn't come in, and we'll be right back in the soup again. And a lot of you have heard my little joke, but it really does remind me—their position is like getting one of those letters in the mail from Ed McMahon—[laughter]—you know, the Publishers Clearing House, the sweepstakes letter. "You may have won \$10 million." Wow! If you ran out and spent the money the next day, you should seriously consider supporting her opponent in this election. [Laughter] But

if you didn't, I hope you'll stick with her and with Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and all the people that have been a part of the enormous effort to give you the chance to build the America we enjoy today.

There are huge differences in the environment. We believe you can improve the environment and grow the economy. I think we've got lots of evidence, don't you? We have 22 million jobs, cleaner air, cleaner water, safer food, 3 times as many toxic waste dumps cleaned up, 43 million more Americans breathing air that meets Federal air standards, and the best economy in history. If you do it right, you can do it.

Now, they've got a commitment to weaken that. This is a serious choice. You have to make a choice. And this Medicare drug issue, it's a big deal. The average 65-year-old in America has a life expectancy of 83. People over 65 in America have the highest life expectancy of any group of seniors in the world. But if you want people to live longer and live well, they have to have access to medicine. Our plan would give everybody that needs it access to it. It clearly can be paid for, notwithstanding her opponent's attacked her over this because it costs so much. Let me just tell you something; they have the Congressional Budget Office; they give us the cost estimates. By their estimates—by their estimates, not ours—we can pay for the drug plan she wants to vote for; we can have a sizable tax cut to help people with education, long-term care, marriage penalty relief, retirement savings; we can invest in education; and we can still get the country out of debt because we have a cushion in case the money doesn't come in.

Now, those are the facts. There's a huge difference here, big difference in the Patients' Bill of Rights. There's a big difference in gun safety legislation. You know, the previous administration, they vetoed the Brady bill. This crowd is against closing the gun show loophole. The congressional leadership was against putting 100,000 police on the street and another 50,000—this ticket says they'll get rid of the program that I've worked so hard for.

I mean, it's not like you don't have a test here. Crime is at a 25-year low. If you put more police on the street, they stop people

from committing crimes if they're smart and they do it right. If you keep more guns out of the hands of criminals and children, you don't have as many people dying. It's not like there's no test here. There's a big difference. You've got to make sure people understand this.

They're committed to repealing *Roe v. Wade*. Al Gore is committed to continuing it. Debbie Stabenow will have to vote on who gets appointed to the Supreme Court. It's a big deal. You have to decide what you believe.

So I just want to say, I'm not trying to make you—everybody wants to be happy now because things are going so well, and I'm happy they're going well. But I'm telling you—and I'd like to sort of ride off into the sunset singing "Happy Trails"—[laughter]—but life doesn't work that way. Just because somebody's term is over, everything that needs to be done doesn't go away.

We've got a chance to go out and reach these—the Native American reservations, these inner-city neighborhoods, these poor rural towns that don't have any kind of economic recovery, and give them jobs and businesses. It will help all the rest of us. We've got all kinds of opportunities out there, but I'm telling you, there are huge choices. You just remember what I said. If somebody asks you what's the difference in Stabenow-Abraham, Gore-Bush on economic policy, can you answer? What's the difference on the Patients' Bill of Rights? What's the difference on Medicare drugs? What's the difference on the environment? What's the difference on gun safety, closing the gun show loophole? What's the difference on choice? Can you answer?

You have got to be able to talk to other people between now and November and tell them it may be 50 years before we have a time like this again, and we can't blow it. And I want to tell you something. I worked with this woman for years now. She is special. She is strong. She has a good heart, a good mind, and she's a good politician in the best sense. And you'll be very, very proud of her when you put her in the Senate.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:53 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Bill and Michelle O'Reilly; State Attorney General Jennifer M. Granholm and her husband, Dan Mulhern; Senator Carl Levin and his wife, Barbara; philanthropist Peter L. Buettenweiser; and Jane Hart, widow of former Senator Philip A. Hart. Representative Stabenow is a candidate for U.S. Senate from Michigan.

**Memorandum on Waiver of Certification for Conditions on Assistance for Colombia**

*August 22, 2000*

Presidential Determination No. 2000-28

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination on Waiver of Certification Under Section 3201 "Conditions on Assistance for Colombia," in Title III, Chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, FY 2000, as Enacted in Public Law 106-246

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 3201(a)(4) of the FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to furnish assistance made available under the Act to the Government of Colombia without regard to the following provisions of section 3201 of that Act:

(a)(1)(A)(ii) the Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces is promptly suspending from duty any Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary groups;

(a)(1)(A)(iii) the Colombian Armed Forces and its Commander General are fully complying with section 3201 (a)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act;

(a)(1)(B) the Colombian Armed Forces are cooperating fully with civilian authorities in investigating, prosecuting,

and punishing in the civilian courts Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights;

(a)(1)(C) the Government of Colombia is vigorously prosecuting in the civilian courts the leaders and members of paramilitary groups and Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are aiding or abetting these groups;

(a)(1)(D) the Government of Colombia has agreed to and is implementing a strategy to eliminate Colombia's total coca and opium poppy production by 2005 through a mix of alter-native development programs; manual eradication; aerial spraying of chemical herbicides; tested, environmentally safe mycoherbicides; and the destruction of illicit narcotics laboratories on Colombian territory; and

(a)(1)(E) the Colombian Armed Forces are developing and deploying in their field units a Judge Advocate General Corps to investigate Colombian Armed Forces personnel for misconduct.

I have attached a Memorandum of Justification for the decision to waive the foregoing certifications.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this waiver to the appropriate Committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2000]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the Memorandum of Justification in Connection With the Waivers Under Section 3201(a)(4) of the Emergency Supplemental Act, as Enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001.

**Remarks on Departure for  
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey,  
and an Exchange With Reporters**

August 23, 2000

**California Electricity Shortage**

**The President.** Before I leave for New Jersey today, I want to make a brief announcement about some action we're taking to help consumers in southern California who have been hit very hard by skyrocketing electric bills. I want to thank Governor Davis, Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congressman Filner for their leadership on this issue and their work with me.

The wholesale price of electricity has risen sharply in California this summer as a result of tight supplies and growing demand. This is having a particularly heavy impact where the price hikes are being passed on to consumers, as they are in the San Diego region. Many families and small businesses in San Diego have seen their electric bills more than double. I've heard reports of senior citizens on fixed incomes being forced to choose between medicine and air-conditioning.

Today we're taking three new steps to help ease the burden. First, Secretary Richardson has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to expedite its investigation of the wholesale power markets, so we can better understand what is happening in California and provide policymakers with the information they need to protect consumers in a timely fashion.

Second, I'm directing the Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Shalala to release \$2.6 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds for the families of southern California. This doubles the amount of LIHEAP assistance in the San Diego region and will help to ensure that low income families and senior citizens have the emergency help they need to pay their bills and stay cool.

Third, I'm directing the Small Business Administration to step up their efforts to inform small businesses about SBA loans to help cope with unusually high electric bills.

All of these are short-term steps to help families in southern California during the current power crunch. I also renew my call to Congress to work with us to build a better

energy future over the long run, to take up my energy budget initiatives and the tax incentives to promote energy efficiency and conservation. I hope they will also pass a national comprehensive bill to foster a new era of the right kind of competition in the electric industry to establish a more competitive, efficient, and reliable electric power system for our Nation and to beef up efforts to prevent utilities from abusing their market power to raise rates above competitive levels. This legislation would save our consumers about \$20 billion a year in power costs. We ought to do it, and we ought to do it this year.

Let me say once again to the people of southern California, we'll continue to keep a close eye on the situation. We'll do what we can to help you get through this summer.

Thank you very much.

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think—[*inaudible*].

**The President.** Excuse me, sir?

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think the power companies are profiteering in California?

**The President.** Well, that's what FERC's going to investigate. Secretary Richardson and I talked about it. We want the FERC to look into it and see what the facts are. There is an unusual impact there, different from virtually any other place in America, and it needs to be examined, and I hope it will be. I hope the assistance we're giving in the meanwhile will help.

And again I will say, I believe that we could do an enormous amount if the Congress would pass the energy budget initiatives, the tax incentives to buy energy-efficient homes, vehicles, to retrofit businesses, and would pass the electric utility deregulation.

Let me remind you—some of you may remember this—I went out to the Inland Empire, east of L.A., I believe it was in San Bernardino, to dedicate a housing project that was part of an effort with the National Home Builders and the Energy Department, for working people on modest incomes. And the homes that they built there lowered average electric rates by over 40 percent.

So we need to take some structural action here to empower the American people to solve this problem themselves, too. If we

have deregulation and we give better incentives to people to build or retrofit their homes, their offices, and to buy other energy-efficient appliances, we could make a big difference here in almost no time. So I hope that will happen.

Go ahead, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

### **1996 Campaign Fundraising**

**Q.** Sir, what do you think of Janet Reno's decision not to name a special counsel to investigate Al Gore's fundraising? Do you think it may look to some people like a whitewash?

**The President.** I don't know any more about that than you do. I learned about it when I picked up the paper this morning. Go ahead.

### **Meeting With President-Elect Vicente Fox of Mexico**

**Q.** Well, what are you hoping for from your meeting tomorrow with President-elect Fox of Mexico in terms of U.S. business potential and potential for the U.S. economy?

**The President.** Well, first of all, I want to get to know him, and I want to reaffirm the support of the United States, which I think is bipartisan, for good strong relationships with Mexico, the need for us to work together to deal with the drug challenge, our common environmental challenges along the border, and to make our trade relationship work for both sides. And so, obviously, I hope that there will be long-term economic benefits.

I think he's quite serious about modernizing the Mexican economy and moving forward with our relationship. And I've been impressed with what I've seen and heard about him so far, and I'm anxious to meet him and do what I can to get our relationship off to a good start.

### **2000 Election**

**Q.** Mr. President, a lot of State Democratic chairs would like you to come out and do some targeted campaigning to help get out the base in November. Do you think that's a good idea? Is that something you intend to do?

**The President.** Well, first of all, I think the most important thing is for me to do as

much as I can for the American people in the job I have between now and January the 20th, and that's my main priority. The second most important thing is for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman to go out and spread the message, engage in the debate, and make sure the American people know what the choices are before them. And I think they're doing quite a good job of that.

Now, if I can help, of course, within those parameters, I will do that. I went to Michigan yesterday. I'm going to New Jersey today. I will do some work within the limits of my ability to do it. But the main thing is that the candidates carry the message, and I think they're doing a fine job.

### **Colombia**

**Q.** Mr. President, on Colombia, you signed a waiver yesterday so that the aid could start flowing. There are still some problems of human rights violations, and Congress has a lot of doubt. You're going to be there next Wednesday.

**The President.** I did sign the waiver, but the Congress also passed the aid package, and they expect it to go forward. I did it because I believe President Pastrana is committed to dealing with the human rights issues about which we're still very concerned. He has submitted legislation to the Colombian Parliament, for example, for civil trials, for allegations of military abuses of human rights. And we also have a system in place for specific case-by-case investigation of serious allegations.

So I think that we've protected our fundamental interest in human rights and enabled the Plan Colombia to have a chance to succeed, which I think is very, very important for the long-term stability of democracy and human rights in Colombia and for protecting the American people and the Colombian people from the drug traffic.

**Q.** Are you—[inaudible]—human rights in favor of the money?

**The President.** No. No. First of all, the money is designed to help combat the drug-trafficking and to help alleviate a lot of the social problems, to help to develop alternative economic development, and also to build the civil institutions in Colombia which will help to protect human rights.

So what I did was to permit Plan Colombia to go forward and be implemented because I'm convinced that the President is committed to the proper course in human rights—he submitted legislation which is evidence of that—and because we haven't given up our ability to look into case-by-case allegations of human rights violations dealing with specific military units who can be kept from getting any of this assistance if they have, in fact, committed human rights violations.

### **Human Embryo Research**

**Q.** Mr. President, can you talk about your administration's decision to support federally-funded stem cell research, and are you worried about the controversy involved in that?

**The President.** Well, I believe if people will actually—Secretary Shalala and I had a long talk about this before we came out this morning—I think that if the public will look at, first of all, the potentially staggering benefits of this research, everything from birth defects to Parkinson's to Alzheimer's to diabetes—profoundly important there—to certain kinds of cancers, spinal cord injuries, burns, anything kind of regeneration of cells that's required, the potential to change the future, the health future for Americans and for people around the world is breathtaking.

Secondly, these guidelines were not put out without a rigorous scientific review. And human embryo research deals only with those embryos that were, in effect, collected for in vitro fertilization that never will be used for that. So I think that the protections are there; the most rigorous scientific standards have been met. But if you just—just in the last couple of weeks we've had story after story after story of the potential stem cell research to deal with these health challenges. And I think we cannot walk away from the potential to save lives and improve lives, to help people literally to get up and walk, to do all kinds of things we could never have imagined, as long as we meet rigorous ethical standards. And I'm convinced, and Secretary Shalala is convinced, that that has been done.

### **Meeting With President-Elect Fox of Mexico**

**Q.** Mr. President, President-elect Fox has talked about open borders between the United States and Mexico. Generally speaking, sir, do you support that concept even over the long term, and do you expect it to be a dominant part of your meeting tomorrow?

**The President.** Well, I want to hear what he has to say about it, and how we would go about dealing with the problems that we have with the trade arrangement we have now, whether they would be amplified. In general, I think there will be increasing interdependence of the world's economies over the next decade, increasing interdependence in our region.

I think—I believe we should have done more with South America. We've got the Caribbean Basin trade initiative, which I think is good. We've got the relationship with Mexico, which I think has been a net plus for the United States, both economically and politically. We didn't extend our trade agreements to the rest of South America, and I think that the Europeans have benefited at our expense. So I think there will be more interdependence, and the United States has to be a part of that.

But like everything else, the devil is always in the details here, so I want to talk to him about it and see what he has in mind. I would imagine most of this work would have to be done by the next administration.

Yes.

### **Oil Production**

**Q.** [Inaudible]—U.S. doing to convince OPEC nations to increase output, and will you be discussing this issue with Nigeria when you go?

**The President.** OPEC nations? I'm sorry. Well, as you know, we have done what we could—I was actually—I was reviewing the situation last night, and yes, I will discuss it with Nigeria. But we have to look at where there is excess capacity.

Part of this is a question of whether the OPEC nations can increase their production. Part of the problem is coming because

there's now renewed economic growth elsewhere in the world. And it seems to me, just looking at all the numbers over the long run, we're going—we'll get some benefit out of that. That is, I expect you'll see a significant increase in American exports over the next 6 months to 2 years because of the increasing growth in other parts of the world, but as a result of that, it's putting more pressure on the oil supplies that are available.

So I'm going to do what I can to keep these prices moderated and to continue to argue to all the OPEC nations that, if the price gets too high, they will cause recession in other countries, and then the purchases will drop dramatically and for a longer period of time. They're much better off with a price that's below where it is now but one that can be sustained. They don't want to go down to \$13 to \$15 a barrel again, but we don't need it—it needs to be, I think, in the low twenties somewhere. I think that's—low to mid twenties is a more sustainable rate. And so I will clearly discuss it with President Obasanjo and with others in the weeks ahead.

Thank you.

**Q.** Mr. President, how—look for your legal defense fund?

**Q.** Are you back in the spotlight? [*Laughter*]

**The President.** I'm going to New Jersey.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Grey Davis of California; Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Senator Joseph I. Lieberman; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

### Remarks at Crossroads Middle School in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey

August 23, 2000

Thank you. Please be seated, everybody. We all appreciated the standing ovation, but you're about to get tired. [*Laughter*] I am so glad to be here. Let me say, first of all, I thought Malaika Carpenter gave a terrific talk, didn't you? [*Applause*] I understand her parents, Nancy and Lenny, and her brother

Jerren are here. Where are they? Stand up there. You did well.

I'd like to thank Dr. Stewart for welcoming us here, and Dr. Warfel, the principal here. I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation for this terrific band. Weren't they great, this jazz band? [*Applause*] I mean, they played "Hail To The Chief," and "On Broadway," and "Caravan," and lots of other things, and they did it very, very well. There aren't many middle school bands in America that are that good, I can tell you. And you should be very proud of them. They're really good.

And I'd like to thank the other students that met with me just a few moments ago. And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to your Representative in Congress, Rush Holt, who is here with me. Since I'm at a school, I can say this. Rush was a university professor for about a decade, an educator, a trained physicist. When he got elected, we all used to kid him that he knew entirely too much to be a politician. We thought it would be a terrible burden. But I can tell you, from my point of view as someone who has worked for 8 years to improve the quality and the availability of opportunity in education, it has been a real joy to have someone like him with the depth of commitment to education that he has demonstrated these last 2 years. It's been wonderful.

Well, we're about to go back to school. And I've always thought of back to school time as sort of a new beginning. It certainly is for the students and the teachers: new students, new books, new school supplies, new faces in the classroom, a time when a lot of parents stop and think again about the role of education in their own children's lives and what they hope will be their children's future. I think it's a good time for our country to do the same. So today I'd like to talk a little bit about what we can do to prepare our schools and our children not just for the new school year but for the new economy of the 21st century.

We are very fortunate in America today to be living in the longest economic expansion in our history, to have 22 million new jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years and the highest homeownership ever, a 25-year low in the crime rate, a 35-year low in the welfare rolls, with incomes

going up and poverty going down. The great—[applause]—thank you. The great debate that I hope our country will have, not only in this election year but in the remaining weeks of this session of Congress, is what are we going to do with this good fortune?

You know, the parents here in the audience can empathize with this. One of the things you learn when you live long enough is that sometimes you make mistakes not because times are so tough but because they're good, and you kind of break your concentration, and you let moments pass by. And anybody that lives over 30 years can think of some time in his or her life when you made a mistake like that.

So this is a very important time for our country. What are we going to do with this good fortune, unprecedented in our whole history? I hope that we will use this time to dream about the future we want for our children and to literally make a list of what we have to do to achieve it. I hope we'll use this time to pay down our debt and get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835 to keep interest rates lower and keep the economy going. I think that's a good thing to do.

I hope we'll use this opportunity to create incentives for people to invest in the poor areas that still aren't participating in our recovery. Here in New Jersey, you might find it hard to believe, but there are several Indian reservations in America where the unemployment rate is still over 50 percent, even though the national rate is 4; and inner-city areas and small rural towns. So I hope we'll do that.

I hope we will take this opportunity when we have some money to lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare, take it out beyond the baby boom generation so that when those of us who are baby boomers retire, we don't bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandchildren, because they shouldn't be prejudiced by the fact that time has taken us into our later years. I hope we'll use this time to provide some needed health care advances, including prescription drug benefits for seniors on Medicare.

But there is nothing more important for us to do if we want to use this moment to build a future of our dreams for our kids than

to make sure all of our children get a 21st century education. And that requires both investment and standards in accountability.

It requires us to invest more and demand more. It requires us to do what Vice President Gore and I have been trying to do for 8 years now. We have doubled our investment in education and training. We've expanded college opportunity by more than any time since the GI bill 50 years ago with the student loan program improvements and saved \$8 billion for our kids with the HOPE scholarship, which gives every family a \$1,500 tax credit on the cost of college tuition—just about covers community college, makes it free in most States in the country. And we're now trying to get the Congress to allow taxpayers to deduct the cost of college tuition up to \$10,000 from their tax bill, which will be worth \$2,800 a year in lower taxes for families with kids in college.

With the help of the E-rate program, which the Vice President pioneered through Congress, we have worked with schools to connect 95 percent of our schools to the Internet. That's up from only 35 percent 5 years ago when we started. We're also working to help turn around failing schools with after-school and summer school programs and mentoring programs. I was in a school in New York the other day, an elementary school where 2 years ago 80 percent of the kids were reading below grade level and doing math below grade level. Today, 2 years later, 74 percent of the kids are at or above grade level in both reading and math. These schools can be turned around. The teachers can do the job. We've got to give them the support that they need to succeed, and we can do it.

We're working hard to put 100,000 more teachers in the early grades to have smaller classes because of all the research that shows how important that is. And I know that with all these kids coming into this school district, filling these trailers—now you've had to hire a lot of new teachers, and I understand that you've got some of your first-time teachers here, Mr. Superintendent, for their first day of orientation. So I'd like to ask all the new teachers, stand and be recognized. Where are the new teachers in this district? Raise

your hands back there. Give them a hand. *[Applause]* Thank you very much.

I want to thank you for choosing a proud and challenging profession. When you made a decision to become a teacher, you knew you would never become wealthy—*[laughter]*—but you will be in the most important way of all because of what you're going to do for the children of this country and this community. And I thank you for that.

Now, that brings me down to what we're here about, what I think is a very important part of our long-term commitment to our children. All over America our faculties are better than our facilities—nice ring, don't you think? *[Laughter]* Why is that? Because we now have the largest student population in history, what's called the baby boom echo—53 million echoes in our schools—shattering enrollment records for 5 years running. That's right, for the last 5 years, it's the first time since the baby boomers in school that we have a group of kids in our schools bigger than the baby boom generation.

Today I'm releasing a report from the Department of Education showing that New Jersey has its highest enrollment in 20 years. If you had a statewide rollcall, 1.3 million students would answer. That's a 20 percent increase in the last 10 years alone. I understand in this school district the increase has been more like 90 percent in the last 10 years.

Now, what's the problem? The problem is that you've got all these kids who are going into schools that were never built for this many kids. You have them in small towns—I was in a little town called Jupiter, Florida, a couple of years ago where there were 12 trailers out behind the school, a community much smaller than this one. You have the suburban areas that are swollen up. I was in a community in Queens the other day where the same thing was true, where there were 400 more children in a school than the school was built for.

So you've got the problem of the trailers, and then you've got the problem in our cities of so many old school buildings that either can't be or haven't been modernized, so that you've got whole floors in some of these schools that are shut down, even though the

schools are filled to the gills, because the schools cannot afford the cost of modernizing these old buildings.

Philadelphia, the average school building is 65 years old; New Orleans, 68 years old. New York City, schools still being heated in the winter by coal-burning furnaces. So you have these two big problems. And I believe the Federal Government has a responsibility to help the States and the local school districts deal with it. And I believe that—this is the important thing, and you all have to think about this, whether you're Democrats, Republicans, or independents, because it is a new thing. This is virtually unprecedented except for a temporary amount of help the Government gave to school districts after World War II for the baby boom generation.

So the leaders of the majority party in the Congress in Washington say that we shouldn't do this because the Federal Government has never been in the business of school building. In some States the States don't help school building; it's all local. I think we should do it for the following reasons—and I want you talk to your friends and neighbors about it, because you're living with it here.

Number one, education is the constitutional responsibility of the States and the operational responsibility of the localities, but it is a national priority, and it must be.

Number two, we've got some money now, and a lot of States and localities don't, and there's no better way to spend it than by investing in our children's future.

Number three, there are real practical problems with saying that this school district here should solve this whole problem. And you know what they are. Even though we've got the largest number of school children in our history, the actual percentage of property owners who have kids in the schools is slightly smaller than it has been at its largest time—first. A lot of you nodding your head, you know this. Secondly, there are a lot of States like New Jersey, New York, and many others which already rely very heavily on the property tax to finance their schools, and there's just a limit to how big it can be.

And I don't think we ought to let, in this sense, philosophy get in the way of practicality here. I'm not proposing to take over

the schools. I'm not proposing to do anything except to have legislation that will give tax credits to communities to help them build or drastically modernize 6,000 schools, by lowering the property tax burden on you to do what you're going to do anyway. That's what I want to do.

And by the way, our bill would also provide grants and loans to repair another 5,000 schools a year, every year, for 5 years, to help with a lot of these problems with the old school buildings that need to be upgraded.

Now, I hope that you will talk to your friends and neighbors about this. Now, Congressman Holt is already a cosponsor of the legislation by Representative Rangel of New York and Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, a Democrat and a Republican. As I said, we have a bipartisan majority in the House for this, thanks in no small measure to the work of the teachers and the members of the Building and Construction Trades Union who are here today. And I thank them, the teachers and the building and construction people, for what they've done. I think if we can get the bill up in the Senate, we'd have a bipartisan majority there.

But again, there is this debate: Should the Federal Government be involved in this? Now, the Congress is coming back. We've got almost all the major budget work still to be done. We'll be there a month, maybe 5 weeks, 6 weeks. We debated this for 2 years now. Nobody's in the dark about how it works. It's just a question of whether we can get over this philosophical objection that the Federal Government's never done this before.

And all I can tell you is, I was there looking at these wonderful children behind me, talking to me in their school, and these two young teachers, full of enthusiasm, thinking about all the good they're doing and all the practical arguments for not putting them in a decent classroom just evaporated. There just are none. So, if people ask you why this is a big deal, first, you can cite what's going on in your school district. And then they say, but the Federal Government's not doing this anymore—is this setting a dangerous example? Remember, all we're proposing to do is spend some of the surplus to provide tax credits to lower the cost to local school dis-

tricts and to States where they do this, of building these facilities, so that it eases the property tax burden and makes it easier to do that. And we're proposing to give direct loans and grants to repair another 5,000 schools a year for 5 years where there's a building that's not fully usable. And the need is enormous. It is national. And these children's education is a national priority.

Look, all over America today, the schools are working better: Reading scores are up; math scores are up. I was in a school in Kentucky the other day that 4 years ago was one of the worst schools in the State, where—listen to this; this is what they did in 3 years—over half the kids were on student lunches. Three years ago 12 percent of the kids were reading at or above grade level; today, almost 60 percent. Three years ago 5 percent of the kids were doing math at or above grade level; today, 70 percent. Three years ago not a single kid in that elementary school was doing science at or above grade level; today, nearly two-thirds. This is happening all over America. The schools are working better. We actually have learned a lot in the last 15 years about how to increase student performance—the teachers, the principals—it's breathtaking what's going on.

College enrollment's at an all-time high. But sooner or later, we're going to pay price after price after price, just like Malaika said, in describing this in very human terms, if we say our children are the most important things in the world to us, but we don't really care if they've got a decent place to go to school. We really want all these young people, like those enthusiastic young teachers that waved their hands back there, to go into teaching, but we don't care if they have a lousy place to go to work.

Now, sooner or later, we have to deal with this. This is not consistent. If we care about it, we need to put it beyond politics and put our children first and get this done. So I'd like to ask you for your help. I need your help. Talk to your friends and neighbors who don't live here, who don't live in this congressional district. Tell them it is not a political issue; it's about the children.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. in the school parking lot. In his remarks, he referred to Malaika Carpenter, Crossroads Middle School graduate who introduced the President; Samuel B. Stewart, superintendent, South Brunswick Schools; and Jim Warfel, principal, Crossroads Middle School.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on a Decision  
in the Proposed Acquisition of a  
Domestic Internet Service Provider  
by NTT Communications**

August 23, 2000

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Attached is a report on my decision to take no action to suspend or prohibit the proposed acquisition of Verio, Inc., a large U.S.-based Internet Service Provider (ISP), by NTT Communications Corporation (NTT Communications), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, (NTT). NTT is a Japanese corporation that is owned and controlled by the Government of Japan (GOJ). I have taken this decision under the authority vested in me as President by section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, also known as the "Exon-Florio" provision, 50 U.S.C. App. 2170. This report is submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of the Exon-Florio provision.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Remarks at a Reception for  
Representative Rush D. Holt  
in Princeton, New Jersey**

August 23, 2000

**The President.** Thank you. You know, if I had any sense of fairness at all, I'd tell them to turn this off. [Laughter] But I'm not going to. [Laughter]

I want to thank Robert and Lisa Stockman for having us here at this truly beautiful, beautiful home and for getting us all together and for supporting Rush. I want to thank all

of you for coming here tonight, the officials, the union and teacher leaders, and other leaders, and just the citizens who believe in this good man.

I know you've been here a long time, and I won't keep you long, but I want to say two or three things. First of all, I really like Jon Corzine a lot. You know, when he was running in the primary and they kept carping about how much money he was spending, I thought, well, at least he's not spending all this money to give himself a tax cut. [Laughter]

The reason I really like him is that he thinks that these young people that served you tonight ought to have the same chance to send their children to college he has. That's what makes him a Democrat. And I think he will be a terrific United States Senator. He's got good ideas, and he's not afraid to tell you what he thinks, and he doesn't care if he disagrees with you, me, or anybody else. He's just out there telling you exactly what he thinks. And we need people like that in the United States Senate. I admire him.

Also, I want to tell you, I've got a lot of interest in these Senate races—one in particular, near here. [Laughter] I hope you'll help her, too.

I like Rush Holt. And I was in Princeton earlier this afternoon, and I was walking up and down the town, and I was shaking hands with people. And when I came out of the hotel after I went in and took about an hour to do a little rest and get some work done, I came out, and there was a couple hundred people out there. So I went over and shook hands with them, and we started talking about Rush Holt and a couple people. I said, "I really want you to help him, and why are you here," and all that kind of stuff.

And I just started talking, and it occurred to me that I ought to say to you one of the things I said about him. But I want to talk in a moment briefly about the big issues of the campaign, but I spent a lot of time thinking about the future, about what America will be like 10 or 20 years from now. If we had any success in the last 8 years, it was largely the credit of the American people. But the role we were able to play—we, the whole administration and our allies in Congress—I think it was in no small measure because

before I asked the people to vote for me for President, I actually thought about why I wanted the job.

And that may seem—don't laugh, because a lot of people run without thinking about it. [Laughter] The White House is a nice place to live; Air Force One, you don't have all this airport congestion the rest of you are going through. [Laughter] But you're all laughing—Rush, that joke you told was really funny. [Laughter] But really, I think it ought to be told by somebody like me who is not running again. [Laughter] It was funny. [Laughter]

Anyway, so I actually—I thought about it. So I spent a lot of time thinking about the future. And when we—my whole goal was, when I ran in 1992, was to have an America at the dawn of a new century where opportunity was genuinely alive for every responsible citizen, where we were more like a community coming together across all the lines that divide us, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, even party.

You know, if you think about it, as the world grows more and more interdependent, we have to find ways to work together. And we'll be more and more rewarded when we can find ways to work together where everybody wins, where we have honorable compromise, or we come up with heretofore unthought-of solutions that allow us to both live with our convictions and our interests and recognize the legitimacy of other people.

And if you look around this whole world today, a lot of the problems that exist out there are existing because people are still bedeviled by the oldest problem of human society, the fear of the other—people who are different from them—and the sense that we can only matter in life if somehow we've got somebody we can look down on, you know. "I may not be the smartest star on the planet, but at least I don't have a double-digit IQ like that guy." And how many times have you been guilty of that? I have. "Well, I did something I'm not particularly proud of, but at least I'm not that guy," you know? [Laughter] Or, "at least I'm not a Republican," or, "I'm not a Democrat." [Laughter] How many times have you done that?

But the truth is, the world is growing more interdependent, so we have to find a way

both to fight for what we believe in and not give up what we believe in and still find a way to respect the common humanity that makes all this worth doing.

So, against that background, what I tried to do when I came in was to get America to that point where we were once again leading the world for peace and freedom and prosperity and security, so that we could then take on the big challenges of this new era.

And the last two State of the Union Addresses I devoted to those big challenges, knowing that we could make some progress now. But for a lot of the greatest things that America could achieve, because we've turned the country around, it would have to be done by others after I was gone.

But if you think about it, I want us to stay on the far frontiers of science and technology, but I want us to protect our values. I want us to bridge the digital divide, but I want to protect our values. I want everybody to have access to the Internet, but I think you ought to have to get permission before that means they have access to your medical or your financial records.

I want with all my heart for the human genome project to give every young mother a little card that had their child's genetic map so that—I predict to you within 20 years, newborns in America that don't die of accidents or violence will have a life expectancy of 90 years—maybe before then—because of the miraculous advances. And I want that. But I don't want anybody to be able to get a hold of your little gene card and use it to deny you a job or health insurance.

I want to maximize the development of all these scientific developments, but I know, in addition to all the good things that happen, the organized forces of destruction will take advantage of these same revolutions.

I was thinking the other day—I went to the show that they have in Chicago every year, the information technology people do, and they're showing all the new products. And the people from Motorola gave me a little hand-held computer that had a keyboard and a screen, and I could get the news, and I could send E-mail. My hands were too big to work the keyboard. And it was plastic, no metal in it, so it would go through an airport metal detector. Same thing may mean

that terrorists will be able to have plastic bombs with chemical and biological weapons. I want someone who understands that.

What's the point of all this? What I was telling those people in Princeton today, in the town, is that Rush Holt is the only physicist in the Congress. [*Laughter*] And even Republicans who may not agree with every vote he cast ought to think long and hard before they replace him. Most people who get elected to the United States Congress are like me; they're lawyers. But we need somebody that really understands this stuff. You need someone who really understands all these big future issues, because I promise you, in spite of all the good things that have happened the last 8 years, the greatest benefits to America of the work we have done are still out there if we make the right choices, both to seize the opportunities and deal with the challenges. And he has a unique contribution to make to you and to America. That's a big reason you ought to go out and fight for his reelection.

Let me make just one other point. I'm glad you came here, and I thank you for giving him your money. [*Laughter*] But it's not enough. Here's why. The great challenge in this election that will determine whether Jon Corzine is your Senator, whether Rush Holt is your Congressman, whether Al Gore and Joe Lieberman are elected, is really what the American people believe the election is about and whether they understand the differences on both subjects, between the choices they have.

So I say to all of you, every one of you has friends who aren't as into politics as you are, both here in this congressional district or in the State, or even beyond the borders of the State. Every one of you has friends who aren't diehard Democrats. Every one of you has friends who really haven't started thinking about this much yet, or have just kind of a vague notion of where these candidates are. You work with them. You go out to dinner with them on the weekends. You worship with them. Maybe you play golf or you bowl with them, or you go to your kids' soccer games with them. Every one of you has friends like this. And I am telling you, the election will turn on what the people think it's about.

That's why Rush said this election is about the issues. Why did Vice President Gore do so well in his speech? Because he got up and he gave a version of a State of the Union Address. Yes, it was beautifully delivered, and yes, all the other things he said about his family, his values, and his role for the last 8 years, and all that was very well done. But the reason it worked is, he said, "If you vote for me, here's what I'm going to try to do for and with you."

Now, there are just a few things I want to say to you tonight to hammer this home. There are huge differences between our nominees for President, Vice President, our candidates for the Senate and the House, and our parties on a number of critical issues. And let me just mention three or four.

Safety—public safety: The crime rate is at a 25-year low; gun crime has dropped 35 percent since we passed the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban. The leaders of the other party and most of their members opposed them both. The previous administration vetoed the Brady bill. We lost a lot of Members of Congress in '94. We lost a dozen because they stood up and voted with me on these gun safety issues and because the gun owners, the sportsmen, the hunters, they hadn't had time to see that all these scare tactics were wrong.

Now, this is a huge issue. We also put 100,000 police on the street, which helps us to catch criminals but, more importantly, helps us to prevent crime in the first place. And now we're putting another 50,000 police on the street. Now, the leaders of the other party oppose that, too. The nominee of the other party said the other day he'd get rid of the 100,000 police program. That presumably means he certainly won't continue the 50,000 extra. [*Laughter*]

We want to close the gun show loophole where—and do background checks there. We want handguns to be sold with child trigger locks. We want to ban the import of these big ammunition clips that can then be put on guns here to get around our assault weapons ban. That's what we believe. That's what we believe. And we think more police in community policing situations will help lower the crime rate further.

I'm glad crime is at a 25-year low, but I doubt if there is a person in this room that thinks America is safe enough. And I won't be satisfied until this is the safest big country in the entire world. This is a huge difference. There are massive consequences to public safety. Their answer is, "punish people more"—which we've been doing pretty steadily for 25 years, but until we did what we did, the crime rate wasn't going down—"punish people more and have more people carrying concealed weapons, even in houses of worship." That's their position.

Now, this is different. This will have real consequences to you. And every person you know ought to know what the difference is. If they agree with them, they should vote for them. But they ought to know. And we shouldn't pretend now that both parties are talking about inclusion and reaching out to everybody—that's good. You know, the Democrats made fun of the Republicans at Philadelphia because they had to go gather up people off the street to look like we do normally—*[laughter]*—but I didn't do that. You may think I just did, but—*[laughter]*—look, I think that's progress. And I think we should thank them for it, that they no longer think that the way to get elected is to demonize all of us—I think that's good—and to divide us. But there are still differences; so that's one.

Education: You heard Rush talking about a big part of our program. We want to hire 100,000 more teachers for smaller classes in the early grades. And we want to train teachers better. And we just announced a program to basically let teachers teach off a lot of their student loans if they go into fields where there's a shortage or areas where there's a shortage.

We want to help school districts like those in New Jersey with all of these housetrailer, like the ones I saw today, get a discount so they can build 6,000 more schools and then repair 5,000 a year over and above that over the next 5 years. They don't think that's a national responsibility. They're not for that.

We believe that we ought to give more aid, but we're for higher standards. We say you ought to identify these failing schools and turn them around or shut them down and have a public school choice/charter school

program. And we have lots of evidence. In Kentucky, where they've had this same system I'm trying to go national with—we did start requiring schools—States to identify failing schools 4 years ago. But Kentucky went all the way, and now—I was at a school the other day where over half the kids were on the school lunch program. It was a total failure 3½ years ago. Today, it's one of the 20 best grade schools in Kentucky. I've seen this all over the country.

I was in Harlem the other day in a school that 2 years ago had 80 percent of the kids reading and doing math below grade level. Today, 2 years later, 74 percent of the kids reading and doing math at or above grade level. You can turn this around.

Their view is, we're all wet about this, and we should just cut a check to the State and let them do whatever they want to with the money. This is a big difference here. This is not an idle difference, whether we have more money for teacher training, more money to get math and science teachers, whether we say, "Okay, we'll give you more money, but we want after-school programs, summer school programs, mentoring programs, every eligible kid in Head Start. Turn the failing schools around or shut them down."

This is not idle. This is a significant thing. If you believe, with the largest and most diverse school population we've ever had, that giving all our kids a world-class education is a very big issue for America, we have different views of this, and that will have consequences to what kind of America you live in.

You already gave Rush his applause line on the Patients' Bill of Rights, but I'll just mention this again. The reason I feel so passionately about it is, I support managed care. Hardly anybody will say that anymore. But let me remind you what it was like in 1993. When I took office, for the previous 10 years medical costs had been going up at 3 times the rate of inflation. It was about to bankrupt the country. So to say we should manage our resources better—that's all managed care really means.

The problem is that we've gotten to the point where there's more managed and less care, because the companies have already

picked what you might call the low-hanging fruit in the management system. That is, the easy decisions have been made. And so now, if you want to keep controlling costs, somebody comes up and they need to see a specialist, or you want them to go to only the approved emergency room or something, even if they've got to go past two or three other hospitals, which happens all the time in America, or they have to apply for a certain procedure that may or may not be covered, the people that work in the lower levels of the managed care companies know that they will never get in trouble for saying no.

If you're 30 years old and you've got a college degree and you're making a modest salary and you're a first-level reviewer, you know that nobody will ever fire you for saying no. Don't you? And you just hope that somewhere up the line, someday, somebody will say yes if that's the right decision. And so the practice of medicine has basically been subject to reverse plastic surgery here in a lot of these cases.

So that's why we're for this. This is not complicated. So if you vote for Jon and Rush and Al and Joe and Hillary, you get—you don't get people that want these managed care companies to go broke. You don't get people that say, "Throw all the money you want to. Don't oversee doctors and whether they're wasting your money." You don't get all that. What you get is people who say, "Any institution, if left without any limits, is capable of forgetting its fundamental mission. The fundamental mission is the health care of America. That's what this whole thing is about."

But it's a huge difference here. They think the ultimate decision should be left with the companies. We think it should be left with the physicians and the patients. And even when they change, they say, "Okay, we'll agree with you as long as the companies can't be held responsible for what they do." Well, that's not a Patients' Bill of Rights; that's a patients' bill of possibilities. *[Laughter]*

This is a huge thing. This will affect the way millions of people live. We're not talking about something idle here. We're talking about millions of lives.

Last issue, the economy: It concerns me that basically—as Rush said, in '93 they all said my economic plan was going to wreck the country, and they wouldn't be held responsible for the results—absolutely not. And I hope the American people will take them at their word, as I said the other night. *[Laughter]* But now they say, "Oh, this whole thing happened by accident. You couldn't mess it up if you tried, and there are no consequences. Vote for me—vote for them. What difference does it make?" They say what really matters is, what are you going to do with the surplus, and they say, "The surplus is your money, and we're going to give it back to you." And that sounds good and doesn't take long to say. *[Laughter]* It's a good line. "It's your money, and I'm going to give it back to you."

Now, here's the problem with that. What do we say? What do they say? You heard Rush talking about it. We say, "Well, first of all, we've got to take care of Social Security and Medicare, because when all these baby boomers retire there's only going to be two people working for every one person drawing, and we don't want it to bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandchildren. So before you just go plumb off the handle here, what are you going to do when the baby boomers retire? Make sure you're not going to have Social Security and Medicare in a fix so that their retirement doesn't burden their children and their grandchildren." And we say, "And by the way, if you do that, we'll also pay the debt off, which will keep interest rates low." And we say, "We ought to save some money to invest in education and health care and the environment and science and technology." We're for a tax cut, for marriage penalty relief. We're for changes in the estate tax. We're for things the Republicans said they want. We're for some changes there. We're for also helping people like the folks that served us here tonight with college tuition tax deductions, child care increases, long-term care tax credit, savings for retirement.

But all of ours cost way less than half theirs because we've got to have some money to invest, because there might be emergencies we can't foresee, and oh, by the way, this is all a projected surplus. It has not come

in yet. Their argument reminds me of those letters I used to get in the mail, back when I opened my own mail—[*laughter*—those sweepstakes letters from the Publishers Clearing House. Ed McMahon writes you a letter saying, “You may have won \$10 million.” [*Laughter*] You ever get one of those letters? [*Laughter*] Now, if you went out the next day and spent the \$10 million, you should support their economic program, because that’s what it is. You should do that. [*Laughter*]

Ask Corzine; he knows more about the market than I do. I’m glad that the market has more than tripled. I’m glad that we’ve made more millionaires and more billionaires than ever in history, together, as a people. I’m glad of that. I hope it keeps on going, but this is projected income.

You think about how much money you think you’re going to get over the next 10 years. Would you give it all away today, saving nothing for education, for health care needs, for family emergencies? What happens if you don’t get the raise you anticipate or if your stocks don’t get the return you think? You wouldn’t do that.

That’s their position. Spend it all now. It’s your money. Take it back. [*Laughter*] Now, our plan costs less than half theirs, and will keep—the Council of Economic Advisers says it will keep interest rates at least a point lower for a decade. Do you know what that’s worth? Two hundred and fifty billion dollars in home mortgages, \$30 billion in car payments, \$15 billion in college loan payments. In other words, it’s worth another \$300 billion in tax cuts to keep interest rates low.

Now, you’ve got to explain this to people who haven’t been thinking about it. We cannot give the entire projected surplus away in a tax cut. It’s not there yet. It may not all be there. You can’t know what the emergencies are, and it’s wrong not to invest in education. It’s wrong not to invest in health care and the environment, and it is certainly wrong not to prepare for the retirement of the baby boomers and keep getting this country out of debt. And people have to understand that.

We’ve all had a good time tonight. But if you don’t remember anything else I’ve said, remember this: Every day, you find one or

two people, every day between now and November, if you have to call them on the phone halfway across the country, you find one or two people, and you ask them to support Rush and Jon and Al and Joe. And you tell them, look——

**Audience member.** And Hillary. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** ——and Hillary if they live in New York. If they live in New York, you tell them that, too. [*Laughter*] And you tell them—and they say why—say, “Here’s the difference in economic policy. Here’s the difference in health care policy. Here’s the difference in education policy. Here’s the difference in crime policy.” If we had another 30 minutes, I could go through 10 other things. But those things matter.

People have to understand. This will affect your life. This will affect your children. This will affect whether we make the most of a magic moment in our country’s history. It will even affect whether we have the resources to continue to lead the world to a more peaceful place. I plead with you.

I’m coming back to where you are. This is the first time in 26 years I haven’t been running for anything. [*Laughter*] I’m going to be a citizen activist. But I know one thing. We may not have another chance in our lifetimes to build the future of our dreams for our children. And if we make the right decisions, that’s exactly what we’re going to do. You’ve got to be committed personally to leaving here and making sure that every one you know understands exactly what the choices are. If you do, they will make the right decision, and it will be great for them and, even more important, great for America.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:10 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Robert and Lisa Stockman, reception hosts; Jon S. Corzine, candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush. Representative Holt is a candidate for New Jersey’s 12th Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Reception for Mayor  
Susan Bass Levin in Cherry Hill,  
New Jersey**

*August 23, 2000*

Thank you. Well, first, this place has wonderful memories for me. I remember when I came here in 1992, it was, I think, the Sunday evening before the election. The race was close in New Jersey and close in the country. And we had this great rally here. And then on election night, the people of New Jersey voted for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, and I'll never forget it.

Then in 1996 New Jersey went from giving us a 2-point margin of victory to giving us a 16-point margin of victory, one of the largest in the entire United States, and I will never forget that. So the first thing I'd like to say is, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, New Jersey.

Now, the second thing I would like to say is, I thought Alexis Ettinger was gangbusters. Wasn't she wonderful? *[Applause]* To inspire the young is one of the most important responsibilities of any public leader. And if Susan can inspire Alexis, that's about as good a recommendation for her representation to Congress as anything I can think of, and I really think that's wonderful.

I want to thank Jon Corzine for being here. I know he's been out stirring up the crowd before I got here. But I like him. I admire him. I hope that he gets to be a partner with the new Senator from New York across the river. *[Laughter]* We were just up in Princeton together with Congressman Rush Holt, another good friend of mine, and I told somebody I love reading the press about Jon, you know, people wailing away about the fact that he invested so much money in the primary. And I said, "I don't know what they're complaining about. He's the only rich guy that I knew who would spend that kind of money to avoid giving himself a big tax cut so he could give the rest of you a better tax cut, a better education, a better economy, and a better future." I hope you will support him and get him to the Senate. We need him.

And let me say, when Susan and I were walking down the steps tonight, I said—I looked at her, and I said, "I am so glad that

you gave me a chance to do this for you tonight, because for more than 8 years now, you have been there for me, every single day, in the good times and the bad, in every single way." I am so grateful to her.

And that's another mark of a good leader. If you live long enough and you stay in public life long enough and you take on enough issues and you make enough adversaries, you will have your bad days as well as your good ones. The mayor of Cherry Hill was always there, for me and for our administration, for what we were trying to do for America, and I will never forget it.

So that brings me to why I am here tonight. Now, if you will let me use a colloquialism from my part of the country, I always wonder whether I can do any good at events like this because I know that in a way I'm preaching to the saved. I mean, if you weren't for her, you wouldn't be here. Either that, or you've got a lot of extra money on your hands. *[Laughter]*

But I want you to listen to me just for a few minutes tonight, because what I want to tell you is, number one, I believe she can win, and number two, I know she should win, and number three, the only way she can win is if you do more than give her money.

Every one of you—every one of you—has friends who live in this district who will vote on election day, people who think of themselves as good, upstanding citizens and wouldn't dream of not voting. But they don't spend nearly as much time as you do going to events like this. They may not know her as well as you do. They may not be living within 50 miles of here.

Every one of you has people that you work with, you go out to dinner with on the weekends, maybe you worship with, maybe you play golf with or go bowling with or your kids play soccer with, or some other way you come in contact with people. They will vote, but they don't know as much about this as you do. They don't know her as well as you do. They don't have as clear an understanding of what the differences between our parties, our candidates for President and Vice President, Jon Corzine and his opponent, as you do. And I am telling you—you know, I've been doing this a long time. *[Laughter]*

The first time I passed out cards at a polling place was in 1954 when my uncle ran for State representative. I was 8 years old. He served one term. His wife made him quit because she thought politics was too tough—ha! [*Laughter*] What does Sue know?

Every election is different. This election will turn, in my opinion, on what the American people, what the people of New Jersey, and what the people of this congressional district think it's about. I was so proud of Vice President Gore and his speech last Thursday because he gave sort of a mini State of the Union speech. He said, "Okay, here's who I am. Here's what I believe, but let's get to the meat of the coconut here. If the President is somebody who works for the American people, if you vote for me, here's what I'll do."

Now, you've got to be able to tell people why they ought to vote for them and get the election for Congress and the New Jersey Senate election in the context of what's going on in this country today. You clapped for all of Susan's issues, but I want to try to give some clarity to the ones she mentioned and then talk about ones she didn't, the one that may affect you most of all, that I'm afraid is least understood.

If we started 8 years ago—I had this idea that if we could create an economic policy, a social policy, an environmental policy, and a foreign policy that would reward opportunity for responsibility, would create an American community that stopped dividing us by race, by religion, by gender, by secular orientation, by whatever, and pulled us together—even by party, Lord knows I tried to work with our friends in the Republican Party under somewhat ugly circumstances—that we could really go into the 21st century with America as the leading force for prosperity and peace, for human rights and freedom all around the world. And we are today. And I'm grateful.

But what I want you to understand is, all the best things are still out there. The good things that have happened in this country in the last 8 years are nothing compared to what all of us together could achieve in the next 8 or 10 years if, but only if, we make the right choices about our future.

Everybody in this room, at least who is over 30 years old—you can see a lot of nodding heads—everybody in this room over 30 years old can remember at least one time in your life when you made an error, a mistake, not because things were going so badly but because things were going so well you did not believe you had to concentrate, think, or dream. You could just sort of wander through the day.

Now, our country has never been in a position like this before. And it may not be like this again in our lifetime, where we have so much prosperity and social progress, the absence of a real crisis at home and threat abroad, a projected surplus—we can build the future of our dreams for our children. So I will say again, how this race for Congress, how this race for Senate, how the Presidential race comes out, how Hillary does over in New York, it all depends on what people believe the election is about.

Are we going to build the future of our dreams for our children? If so, what do we have to do to give them all a world-class education? What do we have to do to deal with the aging of America, to preserve Social Security and Medicare in a way that when the baby boomers retire and there's only two people working for every one person on Social Security, people like me don't bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandkids? How are we going to deal with the challenge of global warming and still grow the economy? How are we going to take advantage of these marvelous changes in medical science, the human genome project, and all the other biomedical revolutions that may allow people who are living with severed spines to stand up and walk, that may allow people who have Parkinson's disease to get over it, that may allow people who are certainly going to have Alzheimer's not to get it, that I believe will allow young mothers, girls in this audience today, by the time they have their babies, will go home from the hospital with a little gene card that will tell them how to maximize their children's health and minimize the problems, and within 20 years young women will be giving birth to babies with a life expectancy of 90 years, you can book it. It will happen.

Now, so how are we going to do all that and still make sure when you carry your gene card around, nobody can deny you a job or health insurance because of something that's on that card? How are we going to bridge the digital divide and hook up all of our schools and make sure everybody has got access to computers but nobody has access to your health and financial records on those computers unless you say yes?

These are big challenges. And there are clear differences. And Susan mentioned some, but I'll be more explicit. Let's go back to the one she mentioned, education. Test scores are going up. The college-going rate is at an all-time high. The African-American high school graduation equals that of the white majority for the first time in history in the last few years. The schools are turning around. We have a very specific strategy to work with the schools: invest more money but demand more results; identify failing schools, have more pre-school, summer school, after-school, mentoring programs, smaller classes in the early grades; hook all the schools including the poor ones up to the Internet.

Their strategy is get rid of that stuff and just write a check to the State and hope they spend it right. Now, there's a very great difference. And don't give it all to the State; have some of it off in vouchers. So you have to decide whether you agree with our strategy or their strategy. It's not just this woman you like; it will affect people's lives how she votes. And you don't have to say anything bad about her opponent or anybody else. But you've got to know there are consequences.

Health care, the Patients' Bill of Rights: Their leadership still won't let us bring it up because the HMO's either don't want us to cover everybody, or if they guarantee a Patients' Bill of Rights and somebody gets hurt, they don't want them to be able to sue and get any help if they get hurt. That's like a patients' bill of suggestion; it's not rights. [Laughter]

And look, I support managed care because we can't—I didn't want to have an explosion and inflation in health care costs, but "care" is even more important than "managed" in that phrase. And you can't take these medical

decisions away from the doctors and the people.

In prescription drugs, I support, and Susan said she supported, Jon supports a Medicare prescription drug program that would allow all the seniors in this country who need it access to affordable prescription drugs through the Medicare program. They support a program that wouldn't cover half the seniors in the country who need it.

Now, I support the pharmaceutical excellence of America. I'm proud that we've got all these great drug companies in our country, a lot of them headquartered right here in New Jersey. And what they're worried about is if Medicare can buy all these drugs for the seniors that maybe they'll buy them at such a low price that they'll be put in a—there's got to be a way to resolve that. The answer is not what the Republicans want to do, which is to make sure half of the seniors can't get the drugs they need. That is not the answer. There's got to be a good answer to that.

So, she says, he says, we say, Al and Joe say, "Take care of the seniors and the drug companies." Now, this is a big choice for you to make. This is not just another walk in the park here. We're talking about millions of people.

Crime—what's our position? Our position has been 100,000 police on the street, prevent as much crime as you can; the assault weapons ban, the Brady bill. And our position now is, close the gun show loophole on the Brady bill, mandatory child trigger locks, don't let them import all these big ammunition clips that you can then hook on to a rifle here and make it into an assault weapon. That's our position.

Now, what's their position? Their position is, "We were wrong when we passed the Brady bill. We were wrong when we passed the 100,000 police. We're wrong now in putting 50,000 more police on the street, and we're wrong trying to do all this." Their nominee said just a couple of days ago that if he were elected, he would get rid of the 100,000 police program, that that was not a national responsibility.

All I know is, crime is at a 25-year low. Gun crime's down 35 percent. We tried it their way. We tried it our way. Our way

works. Now, they say what we should do is have even more vigorous prosecution, even though we increased prosecution. We've got a record number of people in jail. But when they tried it their way, it didn't work as well.

And what's their weapons position? Their weapons position is, more people should carry concealed weapons, even into houses of worship. That's their leadership position.

Now, they believe that. I'm not saying anything bad about them. That's what they believe. But it's not like we haven't had a test here. We tried it their way. We tried it our way. Our way works better. And America is not as safe as it needs to be. This will have significance. I'm telling you, every vote in Congress, every vote in the Senate matters. We're talking about the way the children in this room are going to have to live.

Now, so what have we done? We've got education, health care, and crime. Then, she said—and you clapped—she said, “I'm for preserving a woman's right to choose.” What she didn't say is—what she didn't say is, every year there is a wholesale assault on it in one way or the other through little riders in congressional legislation. So if you're in the House of Representatives, you actually have a chance to protect it.

And I don't know whether Jon said this or not, but the next President is going to appoint two to four members of the Supreme Court. And the United States Senate has to confirm those members.

And they have told us—and, again, I accept that this is their sincere conviction. This is not a personal criticism. Honorable people can have honest differences. But we can't claim that we don't know that there is no consequence here. Their nominee is against *Roe v. Wade*. And you have to assume, being an honorable person, that he will act on his convictions. And you have to assume that their Members of the Senate are more likely than ours to vote to ratify those judges, because that's what is going to happen. So if this is important to you, either way—if it matters to you either way you need to know that you can affect the outcome by the choice you make for Congress and for the Senate.

Now, this is the last point I want to make. And I want to say a little something about the economy, because I think maybe the dif-

ferences in economic policy between the Republicans and Democrats today are the least understood. And yet, they'll have a huge impact on you.

Now, you all know that we have a large projected surplus. That's what we think we're going to get in over the next 10 years. They have a very compelling position. Their position is, “Hey, we had a deficit for years. Now we've got a surplus. It's your money, and we're going to give it all back to you in a tax cut.” It takes about 5 seconds to say, and it sounds so good. [Laughter] “It's your money, and I'm going to give it back to you in a tax cut, all of it. Why should the Government keep your money?”

Our position is, number one, you should get a tax cut, but it ought to be something less than half of theirs in total. Yes, there ought to be some marriage penalty and estate tax relief in there, but we ought to really focus on helping families who need it pay for college education, long-term care, child care, and retirement, to help people who need it, do that.

And by the way, we have to save some money for education and the environment and health care and science and technology. And there might be an emergency, and we've got to save some money for that. And oh, by the way, this is projected income. That means it's not in the bank yet. And if you cut the taxes now for all the projected income and the money doesn't come in, you've still got the tax cut.

I told somebody their position reminds me of those letters I used to get back when I was a private citizen from that—that sort of Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes letters from Ed McMahon. You've seen them. “You may have won \$10 million.” [Laughter] You may have. [Laughter] And when you got those letters, if you went out the next day and you spent the \$10 million, you should seriously consider supporting them in this election. [Laughter] But if you didn't do that, you better vote for Susan and Jon and Al and Joe and Hillary, if you live in New York. [Laughter] Jon Corzine made a lot of money in investments, ask him. Nobody would do this.

Let me tell you something else, this is before they spend their own money. Their Social Security privatization program, it's about a trillion bucks over 10 years, and the other things they want to spend money on, before they have to deal with emergencies. I'm telling you, folks, we don't want to go back to deficits.

Now, let me tell you one other thing. We have a study from the Council of Economic Advisers that says that if their plan were enacted, as opposed to the one the Vice President and Jon and Susan have endorsed, interest rates would go up by one percent a year for a decade. Now, if we keep interest rates one percent lower a year for a decade, would you like to know what that's worth to you? Two hundred and fifty billion bucks in home mortgages, \$30 billion in car payments, and \$15 billion in college loan payments. In other words, one percent lower interest rates is a \$300 billion tax cut to ordinary Americans who desperately need it, and you get the benefit of getting the country out of debt, investing in our future, saving Social Security and Medicare.

Listen, it may take me longer to explain our economic program, but I'm sure now that I've done it, you can get the gist here. You've got to be able to do that.

Now, I'm going to close where I started. It is not good enough for you to come here for somebody you know and believe in and contribute and go home and forget about this. You've got to be like Alexis. You've got to be a volunteer, even if you don't go in the headquarters. Every day between now and November you need to go up to somebody you know who is not here tonight and say, "Listen, here is why I am for Susan. Here's why I'm for Jon Corzine. Here are the differences on economic policy, education policy, health care policy, human rights policy, crime policy"—boom, boom, boom, boom—"here's how it's going to affect your life, your future, our children's future."

And you've got to be able to answer those questions, and you have to feel comfortable. And you can remember the Ed McMahon story. I'm telling you, this is a big deal. I worked real hard to get our country out of debt and get this economy going. And I'm telling you, when I hear people say there is

no real difference in economic policy, you know, I want to just sort of jump in the ocean. I mean, come on, here.

We've got poverty going down. All income groups have their income going up. All the things are going in the right direction. We cannot change our economic direction. We need to do more to bring in people who still aren't participating in this economic recovery, but we don't need to throw away the policy that brought us to this dance we're at, that we're enjoying so much. It would be a terrible mistake.

So think about this. When you go out of here, if you don't remember anything else, you remember, you've got to be able to say, "I am for Susan Bass Levin because she's my friend, because she's been a good mayor, but because she's right for me and you and our kids and our future on education and health care and choice and the environment and the economy and crime and our future." Look, I can hardly remember an election where the choices were any clearer. The rhetoric is not clear anymore because they understand now that people don't like all that hateful stuff anymore, so they chucked it. And they're talking about inclusion. And you're laughing, and we have all made fun of them about it, but actually it's a good thing. It's a good thing.

The words people use matter. And we should say, "Thank you very much for not being so hateful anymore and demonizing your opponents and doing all"—we should say—it matters. We should say that. But I'm just telling you, the substantive differences are still there.

Now, I know this woman. I admire her. She will be a great, great Member of Congress. But when it's all said and done, it's not those of us who hold office that matters; it's those of you who hire us to serve and whether we do what you hired us to do.

I want to close with a little story. I'm surprised I'm going to say this, but I want to tell you something. I got off the plane today in New Jersey to do these events, and the first person I saw was a young businessman from San Francisco. I didn't know he was going to be in the line. I was amazed to see him. I hadn't seen him in 4 years, maybe more. His name is Steve Sposato. He was

there with his beautiful daughter, Megan, and her very young little sister and his wife.

The first time I met Steve Sposato, he was a grieving young widower with an infant child whose wife was cut down by a crazed person with an assault weapon in an office building in San Francisco. You may remember that awful incident when it happened. He was a Republican, always had been. He was just a businessman. And he thought—he couldn't understand why the political system in Washington didn't want to stop people like this crazy guy from getting ahold of assault weapons and going into office buildings and shooting people like his wife.

He wasn't all that political. He just wanted to make sure there wouldn't be any other little girls like his gorgeous little daughter. And I met him. And he came and stood in the Rose Garden at the White House and talked about this in very moving terms. And he said, "You know, I'm not a politician. I'm not a speaker. I just don't want any more kids to be without their parents." And he stood and went through that rough fight with me in 1994. And thankfully, he met another lady, and they had another baby, and I saw beautiful little Megan today and her new little sister and her stepmom and Steve's mother who lives on Long Island. They all came out to see me. It changed his politics forever.

Why? Because in the most awful, agonizing way, he had to come to terms with the fact that what we do as citizens, whether we like it or not, affects how we live as people. And that brave, good, fine young man is standing here.

Now, I hope to goodness not a single living soul in this audience has ever gone through anything like this. But I promise you, in some way or another, for every single one of you, what you do as citizens affects how you live as people. I tell people all the time, politics is not the most important thing in life, not even in my life. Being President is the second most important job I ever had next to being a father. When they get ready to lay you down, you don't think about all the time you should have spent at the office; you think about who liked you, who loved you, how the flowers smelled in the springtime, what it was like to be a child. But politics is supposed to create the conditions and give peo-

ple the tools to shape their dreams, not tear their hearts out.

When it's all said and done, that's what it's about. In my lifetime we have never had this chance before like we have it now. I'm not running for anything, for the first time in 26 years. I tell you this as a citizen: Make sure Susan wins; make sure Jon wins; make sure Joe and Al win. Give this country its best chance.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 p.m. in the paddock area of the racetrack at Garden State Park. In his remarks, he referred to Alexis Ettinger, senior, Cherry Hill High School East, who introduced the President; Jon S. Corzine, candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush. Mayor Susan Bass Levin of Cherry Hill is a candidate for New Jersey's Third Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### Remarks Prior to Discussions With President-Elect Vicente Fox of Mexico and an Exchange With Reporters

August 24, 2000

**President Clinton.** Let me just say very briefly what a great honor it is for me, personally, and for the United States, to have the President-elect of Mexico here. I have looked forward to this very much, for the chance to congratulate him on his election, and all the people of Mexico on a truly historic affirmation of genuine democracy in their country. I'm glad he's here, and I'm looking forward to getting to know him, hearing his ideas, and doing what I can to help him get off to a strong start in our partnership.

**President-elect Fox.** Well, the same here. I'm very glad to be here, sharing a few minutes with President Clinton, the opportunity to know each other, the opportunity to tell him about this great day, July the 2d in Mexico, and the opportunity to get to know experiences that you have lived in this 8 years in this excellent and growing relationship between Mexico and the United States, and also

to thank you for all the support you gave to Mexico in difficult times.

When we were in crisis, we also got and saw the hand of a friend. And so that's something that we recognize in Mexico and I personally recognize and thank you for in the name of all Mexicans.

### **Mexican Democracy**

**Q.** Is Mexico considered a democracy example to *America Latina*?

**President Clinton.** Considered an example?

**Q.** Yes, to *America Latina*?

**President Clinton.** I think that what happened in Mexico is very impressive. I mean, we had a genuine, competitive, democratic election. And I think it's an example to people who are friends of freedom everywhere in the world.

### **Immigration Policy**

**Q.** President Clinton, excuse me—President-elect Fox has brought up a whole bunch of new ideas on the relationship between Mexico and the United States, including plans concerning the border immigration. Are you going to discuss these in full length?

**President Clinton.** Well, I certainly hope so. I want to hear them. Obviously, we have borders, and we have laws that apply to them, and we have to apply them, and so do the Mexicans. But I think over the long run, our countries will become more interdependent.

If you just look at what's happened in the relationship between the United States and Mexico since NAFTA, President-elect Fox had mentioned—made a reference to the assistance the United States gave to Mexico when they had a serious financial crisis. But I always like to remind the American people that our Mexican neighbors paid their loan back ahead of time and in the best possible way. They were good neighbors. We did the right thing. And everything that has happened there has validated the commitment of every genuine friend of an equal partnership in our country.

I think over time, you will see growing interdependence in our hemisphere. And I think the Canadians will be a part of that, and I very much hope our friends in Central America and South America and the Carib-

bean will be part of that. It will be the way of the world. And we will all have to deal with the enemies of organized society and the nation-state together, as well as taking advantage of all these opportunities. I regret that I won't be around for a lot of it. But I think it's a good thing.

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]*—*an idea to increase the number of legal visas for Mexico, up to a quarter of a million visas, in exchange for more cooperation and enforcement on the Mexican side to stop illegal immigration from coming to the U.S. How do you see that? Is that doable?

**President Clinton.** Well, I want to talk to him about it. I think if you look at the United States, I believe we have the most generous immigration policy in the world. And as you know, I've been a very strong supporter of that. We were just talking on the way out about the various kinds of people that are in our administration and where they're from, and America has been made a better country because of that. But I want to talk about the details. Look, we just met. We have to go talk.

Do you want to say anything to him?

**Q.** Did you talk about border issues with Vice President Gore, and what did he say, Vice President Gore?

**President-elect Fox.** I will have a press conference later for that meeting.

[*At this point, a question was asked and answered in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

**President Clinton.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:34 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Proclamation 7333—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2000** August 24, 2000

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Today, America is enjoying the longest economic expansion in our history, with 22

million new jobs created since my Administration took office in 1993 and the lowest unemployment and inflation rates in more than 30 years. The American people are looking to the future with renewed hope and optimism, eager to embrace the exciting opportunities and meet the new challenges of a dynamic and evolving global marketplace.

If we are to extend this remarkable period of growth and sustain our leadership of the world economy, we must use this time of extraordinary prosperity to ensure that every citizen of our Nation plays a role in our economic growth and benefits from its rewards. One of the surest means of achieving that goal is to promote the full inclusion of minority enterprises in the mainstream of our economy.

My Administration has encouraged the growth and success of minority businesses by ensuring their participation in Government procurement; introducing the New Markets Initiative to bring jobs and capital to America's underserved communities; and strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act. Over the last 8 years, the Small Business Administration has guaranteed \$18 billion in loans to more than 80,000 minority-owned firms. And the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) has assisted more than 430,000 minority-owned businesses with start-up and expansion financing. At Minority Business Development Centers across the country, the MBDA also assists minority clients by providing a variety of business services, including the preparation of business plans, market research and development, financial counseling, and bid preparation.

All Americans stand to benefit from the success of our minority entrepreneurs. With energy and determination, these hard-working men and women create jobs, attract investment, bolster pride, and generate revenue in communities across our Nation. People of different races, people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities—all have skills, new ideas, and fresh perspectives to bring to the marketplace. Minority entrepreneurs have unique contributions to make to our economy and the talent and imagination to produce goods and services

that meet the needs of their fellow Americans and of consumers around the world.

The unprecedented strength of America's free enterprise system demonstrates that when people have access to the tools and opportunities they need, there is no limit to what they can achieve. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, let us reaffirm our national commitment to equality in the economic as well as the civic life of our Nation by providing minority entrepreneurs around the country with an equal opportunity to use their abilities, creativity, and motivation to move our Nation forward. By doing so, we will help preserve America's leadership in the global economy.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 2000, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call on all Americans to join together with minority entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29.

### **Statement on Action To Support Firefighters Combating Wildfires**

*August 25, 2000*

The wildfire season this year is one of the worst our Nation has ever witnessed. We have marshaled our Federal resources so that the men and women fighting these blazes will have the tools they need to safely and effectively combat the spread of wildfires throughout the United States. Our Federal firefighters and management personnel are

working under extremely dangerous conditions to protect the public and our lands from the threat of these wildfires.

Today I am announcing that the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, in conjunction with the Office of Personnel Management, will take immediate steps to make available as many as 2,000 Federal personnel for vital management and supervisory positions to support our firefighting efforts. Additional managers and supervisors are needed to ensure additional firefighting crews have the proper supervision and management support that they need in the field. This action will immediately authorize individuals working long, stressful hours to be compensated appropriately. Our Nation owes a great debt of gratitude to these firefighters, managers, and their loved ones who sacrifice their energy and risk their lives in service to their country. It is our responsibility, in turn, to do all we can to protect and support them.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

#### **August 20**

The President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Lake Placid to Chappaqua, NY.

#### **August 21**

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding July 29 through August 2.

#### **August 22**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Bingham Farms, MI.

In the evening, the President traveled to Bloomfield Hills, MI, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will attend the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York City on September 6–8.

#### **August 23**

In the morning, the President traveled to Monmouth Junction, NJ, where he met with students and teachers in Mobile Classroom 103 of Crossroads Middle School.

In the evening, he traveled to Princeton and Cherry Hill, NJ. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

#### **August 24**

The President announced his intention to appoint Trudie Kibbe Reed as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Kevin J. Conlon as a member of the Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities.

#### **August 25**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Abuja, Nigeria.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

#### **Released August 22**

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to New York City September 6–8 to take part in the United Nations Millennium Summit

***Released August 24***

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger on the President's upcoming visits to Nigeria, Tanzania, and Colombia

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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***Approved August 19***

H.R. 3519 / Public Law 106-264  
Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000